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Tucson and Mesa Residents Win Luxury Prizes in Health & Wealth Raffle Early Bird Draw

Both Winners Buy Tickets to Support St. Joseph's Hospital

PHOENIX (Friday, Sept. 10, 2010) –Arned Hernandez of Tucson, bought Health & Wealth Raffle tickets for five years before he finally won big this Raffle. Diana Ludovissie of Mesa, on the other hand, won a prize the first time she ever bought a ticket. Hernandez, who won a luxury Caribbean cruise vacation on the Norwegian's EPIC, and Ludovissie, who won a beautiful brand new Lexus convertible with \$14,000 cash, were both surrounded by friends and family when they received the exciting news of their Early Bird wins.

"I was in the car with four of my closest friends when I found out," said Ludovissie. "I wasn't expecting it. I'm on vacation and brought the ticket in my luggage so I could check the winning numbers, but got surprised by a call instead!"

This is the first time Ludovissie has entered the Raffle, picking up a ticket right before the Early Bird cut-off. Thankfully, her husband advised her to put the ticket in her name since he claimed she has the better luck of the pair. It seemed to be the right decision.

"I've been hearing about the Raffle from my neighbor for many years," said Ludovissie. "I finally decided that, win or lose, the cause was worth it."

When Hernandez told his brother the news that he had won a once-in-a-lifetime vacation, his brother immediately invited himself along on the trip. Hernandez chose his brother to accompany him on the week-long cruise, even though he didn't help buy the three-pack of Raffle tickets.

"Me and my brother like to do things together," said Hernandez. "After hearing all of our friends talk about their fun cruise vacations, we finally get an opportunity of our own. We are looking forward to the whole cruise experience, visiting all the islands and taking tons of pictures."

Hernandez is very loyal, buying tickets for every Raffle in the past five years.

"I like being a part of the Raffle," said Hernandez. "If I don't win, that's okay. I enter because the money goes to a good cause."

The Early Bird prizes are the first of more than 4,300 prizes that will be awarded in the Raffle. Arizonans planning to enter have until midnight, Thursday, Sept. 23, to try their luck at winning.

Grand Prizes

The Fall 2010 Raffle includes two top prizes:

- Grand Prize #1: A million-dollar penthouse at ONE Lexington, the sleek high-rise located in downtown Phoenix. Winner may also choose the cash prize of \$1 million.
- Grand Prize #2: His & Her Mercedes – A 2011 Mercedes E350 and a 2011 Mercedes R350, plus \$37,000 in cash. Winner may also choose the cash option of \$150,000.

Final Draw Prizes

The Fall 2010 Raffle has more than 4,300 prizes, ranging from vehicles and electronics, to recreation items and trips of a lifetime. The cutoff for entry into the final draw is **midnight, Thursday, Sept. 23rd**. The final draw will take place Thursday, Sept. 30th.

Raffle Tickets

To purchase tickets, please visit www.HealthWealthRaffle.org or call toll-free **1-866-390-9034** – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Entries also may be purchased at kiosks located at St. Joseph's Hospital, 350 W. Thomas Road in Phoenix.

The Internal Revenue Service deems that both the \$100 and \$250 purchases are not tax deductible and corresponding taxes on prizes valued at \$5,000 or greater must be paid upon award and before receiving the prize.

Important Dates

The most important dates remaining in the Fall 2010 Raffle include:

- Thursday, September 23rd, at midnight – Final Cutoff
- Thursday, September 30th – Final Draw

About the Health & Wealth Raffle

The Health & Wealth Raffle is the first of its kind in Arizona and one of the largest fundraisers for St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and Barrow Neurological Institute. Since its inception in 2003, the Raffle has served as a unique tool to raise much-needed funds in a short period of time. The biannual Raffle helps the hospital fund research, medical education, and patient care. To date, more than 114,000 prizes have been awarded to Raffle participants, including 26 homes, 401 trips, 343 vehicles and more than \$14 million cash. Whenever possible, prizes are purchased in the state of Arizona. Tickets are \$100 and must be purchased in the state, but participants do not have to be residents of Arizona to win. To learn more about the Health & Wealth Raffle or to enter, visit www.HealthWealthRaffle.org.

About St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and Barrow Neurological Institute:

Located in the heart of Phoenix, Arizona, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center is a 697-bed, not-for-profit hospital that provides a wide range of health, social, and support services with special advocacy for the poor and underserved. St. Joseph's is a nationally recognized center for quality tertiary care, medical education, and research. It includes the internationally renowned Barrow Neurological Institute, the Heart & Lung Institute, St. Joseph's Children's Health Center, the only Lung Transplant Center in the Valley, and one of only two Trauma Centers in the state of Arizona with Level I verification from the American College of Surgeons. The hospital is also a respected center for maternity care, orthopedics, oncology, and many other medical services. *U.S. News & World Report* routinely ranks St. Joseph's among the best hospitals in the United States for neurology and neurosurgery.