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## **Sign of the Times: Health & Wealth Raffle helps participants with economic struggles**

*Good news comes to many Arizona residents during unstable times*

PHOENIX (October 12, 2009) – Economic instability has taken its toll on many Arizonans, leaving some residents hoping for a break. The Fall Health & Wealth Raffle recently granted peace-of-mind to several winners who found themselves in need of a financial boost.

More than 5,600 prizes were awarded to lucky Health & Wealth Raffle participants with ticket proceeds benefiting St. Joseph's Hospital and Barrow Neurological Institute.

When recipients disclosed their plans for their winnings, overwhelmingly their answers involved solutions to economic difficulties.

**Anne Roe, 60, of Tucson** was the Grand Prize #1 winner of \$1 million dollars cash. Roe was rushing out the door when she got the call that she was the Raffle's big winner. "My husband and I enter all the time and we always dream about it," Roe said. "We have some major bills that this can go towards. I can finally pay off my mortgage."

**Rick Belliotti, 38, of Chandler** was the winner of Grand Prize #2 – a 2010 Bentley GTC Speed Convertible plus \$175,000 cash. With five daughters under the age of ten, including a set of triplets, Belliotti foresaw upcoming college expenses as more pertinent than a luxury vehicle. "It's really nice to think about the car, and that would be a really fun car to have," Belliotti said. "It's just one of those things where the money would be a more practical option."

**Judith Paul, 67, of Peoria** was the winner of Grand Prize #3 – a 10-night trip to France for two, with the option of taking the value of the trip. Paul chose to forego the trip in exchange for bringing her family closer together for the holidays. "This couldn't have come at a more perfect time," Paul said. "I thought my son would experience another Christmas without his family. Now I can bring his family to us."

**Mary Miroff, 72, of Sun City** was in need of a car when she got the call that she had won a Honda Insight Hybrid plus \$8,000 cash. “I never expected to win anything this big,” Miroff said. “When the phone rang, I was reading the newspaper, reading about everything bad going on in the world. Then I got the call that something good has happened, and I couldn’t help but cry.”

Kathy Rice, executive director of the Health & Wealth Raffle, has the rewarding task of calling the big Raffle winners and was thrilled to learn that the call came at the right time for so many throughout the state.

“I heard numerous stories about people needing to pay for medical expenses, family members losing jobs, and houses about to be foreclosed, and they are all being helped by Raffle winnings,” Rice said. “It was an emotional day to hear how we are able to touch so many lives with this project.”

For a complete list of prize winners, visit [www.HealthWealthRaffle.org](http://www.HealthWealthRaffle.org).

#### **About 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 enables the hospital to fund research, medical education, and patient care. To date, more than 104,000 prizes have been awarded to Raffle participants, including 24 homes, 337 trips, and more than 389 vehicles. 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 enter. To learn more about the Health & Wealth Raffle or to enter, visit [www.HealthWealthRaffle.org](http://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 Scott and Laura Eller Congenital Heart Center, 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.