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## **Health & Wealth Raffle delivers first ever win for two Arizona residents**

*Loyal Raffle participants finally score as Early Bird winners*

PHOENIX (September 11, 2009) – Excitement is in the air as organizers contact the Fall 2009 Health & Wealth Raffle Early Bird Winners. This Early Bird draw is unique in that all winners are participants who have entered several times, but have never received even a small prize. Donald Mendenhall of Glendale and Perry Iler of Green Valley both received phone calls that their wait to win big in the Raffle is over.

Donald won a 2010 Mercedes-Benz GLK350 4matic 4-wheel drive SUV plus \$15,000 cash – two days before his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

“I’m on the sunny side of 85,” said Donald, who originally couldn’t believe his luck when he received the call. “Who could believe this? It’s unbelievable, but I survived [the call]. It sounded so good I’d like to have her call again!”

Donald has been entering the Raffle every year for the past 10 Raffles to support St. Joseph’s and Barrow and also because he admits to enjoying the thrill.

“When you put in your \$100 or \$250, you don’t do it for the expectation of winning,” he says. “You do it for the anticipation that you might win something. The same reason you put coins in a slot machine. But if the Raffle was just about winning prizes, I probably wouldn’t do it. I do it because St. Joseph’s and Barrow are worthwhile institutions. If we can help them a little bit, we will.”

Perry Iler, 75, is also a big winner in the Raffle who says this is the first win ever for his family. Perry won a 7-night cruise for two through Washington State’s wine country plus \$25,000 cash.

“We’re still coming out of shock a little bit,” Perry says, “but we look forward to going. We already talked about and planned to do that particular trip in the next few years.”

Perry’s wife, Marilyn, was a former patient at St. Joseph’s where she underwent cataract surgery in 1997. Because of the excellent care she received, the family was driven to enter the Raffle for the past four years.

“St. Joseph’s is an outstanding hospital,” Perry says, “I believe the money went to a good cause, and that’s the primary reason we entered.”

Kathy Rice, executive director of the Health & Wealth Raffle, has the exciting task of calling the big Raffle winners and was thrilled to learn that they were winners for the first time.

“We are so grateful to the many participants who enter the Raffle every single time,” Kathy says. “For these Early Bird winners, it was their turn. Their patience and dedication to St. Joseph’s and Barrow have now paid off.”

### **About the Raffle**

As one of the nation’s largest and most innovative fundraisers, the Raffle raises much-needed funds to support patient care, medical education, and research at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center and Barrow Neurological Institute.

The Fall 2009 Health & Wealth Raffle is expected to generate millions of dollars in net proceeds for St. Joseph’s and Barrow.

### **Grand Prizes**

The Fall 2009 Raffle includes three top prizes:

- **Grand Prize #1** – \$1 million dollars.
- **Grand Prize #2** – A custom-built 2010 Bentley Continental GTC Speed, plus \$175,000 cash. Prize package value: more than \$400,000.
- **Grand Prize #3** – A 10-night French extravaganza for two, including the Le Mans 24-hour car race, Bordeaux wine country, Normandy, and Paris, plus \$100,000 cash.

### **Important Raffle Dates**

Key dates for the Fall 2009 Raffle include:

- Midnight, Wednesday, Sept. 30 – cut-off to purchase tickets for the Final Prize Draw
- Thursday, Oct. 8 – Final Prize Draw.

### **How to Enter**

To purchase tickets, please visit [www.HealthWealthRaffle.org](http://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.

### **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.