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Valley Resident Receives Life-Changing News from the Health & Wealth Raffle

Mark Hutchings wins Grand Prize #1, a prize package with a cash equivalent of more than \$1 million

PHOENIX – Tuesday, April 14, 2009 – Mark Hutchings, a 47-year-old Scottsdale resident, claims he has never won anything in his life, until now. Hutchings won Grand Prize #1 in the Health & Wealth Raffle, including a T.W. Lewis home, a one-year membership at the Blackstone Country Club and a 2010 Mercedes GLK 350. This prize package has a cash equivalent of more than \$1 million.

Many Arizonans are feeling the downfall of the economy; for Hutchings, receiving this news was life-changing.

“Business is tough, everything right now is tough. This changes everything,” said Hutchings.

Hutchings is now one of the more than 104,000 winners in the Health & Wealth Raffle benefiting St. Joseph’s Hospital and Barrow Neurological Institute since it began in 2003. Hutchings has been entering the Health & Wealth Raffle since 2004 and has a strong connection to St. Joseph’s Hospital and Barrow Neurological Institute.

“My mom had to undergo a life-saving surgery at Barrow, and ever since I’ve wanted to give back to the hospital for what they did for my mother,” said Hutchings.

“So many people share their stories of how St. Joseph’s and Barrow have made a huge impact in their lives, just as it did for Mark’s mother,” said Kathy Rice, executive director of the Health & Wealth Raffle. “What I love about this project is everyone comes out a winner – the prize winners, Arizonans, because of the impact it has on the community and most importantly the patients at St. Joseph’s and Barrow.”

Other Grand Prize winners:

J. Duss from Kingman won Grand Prize #2 – A T.W. Lewis home and a 2009 Cadillac DTS, a prize package with a cash equivalent of nearly \$800,000.

Duss, age 50, was at work when he received the call from Kathy Rice.

“I was blown away when I heard I won,” said Duss. “I’m still trying to get a grip on it all.”

Duss began entering the Health & Wealth Raffle in 2007 after receiving a brochure in the mail. He has been entering ever since.

“You are always hopeful that you’re going to win a prize, but above all else, it’s a good way to help the hospital,” said Duss.

Now that Duss has won a prize package with a cash equivalent of nearly \$800,000, he plans to finish building the house he started eight years ago.

“I’ve been working on my house since I moved to Kingman, and now I finally get to finish it!” said Duss.

Sandra Lopez from Phoenix won Grand Prize #3 – A 2009 Aston Martin Vantage, a transatlantic cruise and \$40,000, a prize package with a cash equivalent of nearly \$200,000.

Kathy Rice called Sandra Lopez of Phoenix, to tell her that she was the recent winner of Grand Prize package #3, and was unable to reach her. After two failed attempts, Rice mailed a prize letter to the Lopez residence.

“I couldn’t believe it,” said Lopez. “When I received the letter, I made my husband pinch me; I couldn’t believe that this was really happening.”

Lopez has been entering the Health & Wealth Raffle since 2007 and purchases a single ticket each time.

“With each Health & Wealth Raffle ticket we’ve purchased, we pray that God will grant us a miracle to help our family during these difficult economic times,” said Lopez. “This news couldn’t have come at a better time, we really needed this help.”

After winning a Grand Prize in the Health & Wealth Raffle, Lopez wants to spread the word, “I’m telling all my friends and family to enter; maybe they’ll be next to receive the call!”

Other top winners share their stories:

Chris Rogers of Goodyear won a 2009 Dodge Challenger plus \$11,000 in cash.

Chris Rogers, age 31, experienced the impact of Raffle funds at St. Joseph's Hospital and Barrow Neurological Institute first hand. In February of 2007, he had to have emergency neurosurgery because of an infection in his sinuses that went into his brain.

"I should be dead right now, but because of the fantastic doctors at Barrow I am here today," said Rogers.

During Rogers' recovery at Barrow, he would walk the halls of the hospital and that's when he first saw a Raffle sign.

"As soon as I found out about the Health & Wealth Raffle, my wife and I declared that with each tax return we'd purchase a 3-pack, and that's our way to give to the hospital," said Rogers.

Kurtiss Olson of Laveen won a 2009 Dodge Durango Hybrid plus \$15,000 in cash.

Kurtiss Olson, age 62, has been buying up to seven tickets in each Health & Wealth Raffle since 2003 but only bought one this year. Little did he know it would be his golden ticket.

"I'm excited, I'm grateful, I'm lucky," said Olson. "I will buy tickets every year as long as I'm here."

Diane Hilton of Wickenburg won a 2009 Mercedes C300 plus \$12,000 in cash.

One ticket did the trick for Diane Hilton, who won a 2009 Mercedes plus \$12,000 in cash.

"I burst into tears and started crying with my daughter," said Hilton. "It's exciting! Unbelievable, but exciting."

Hilton buys a ticket every year. Her hopes are to help a child by donating to St. Joseph's Hospital and Barrow Neurological Institute.

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 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 743-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, 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.