

Wishes & More Receives \$23,500 Donation from Treasure Island Casino Guests and Prairie Island Indian Community



Bryan Prettyman, Director of Marketing at Treasure Island Resort & Casino; Kim Pang, General Manager at Treasure Island Resort & Casino; Karla Blomberg, President of Wishes & More Foundation; Tom Reid, a Wishes & More advisory board member.

The Prairie Island Indian Community matched their guests' donations to give \$23,510.04 to the Wishes & More Foundation. The coins that are tossed into the casino entrance fountain are collected and the amount is matched by the

tribe to be then donated to the charity. A portion of this donation was used to purchase a digital camera and accessories for the organization.

The Wishes & More Foundation is a new charity that grants the wishes of children who are struggling with a terminal or a life-threatening condition. The organization funded 14 wishes this year and they are working to increase this number significantly in 2006.

“Our guests are very thoughtful and know that every coin can really make a difference in the life of a child,” stated Kim Pang, general manager at Treasure Island. “We wanted to match this donation to show that we care as much as our guests do.”

Wishes & More has presented many children in Minnesota with a variety of gifts and opportunities, such as five-year-old Brynn from Cannon Falls. She has mitochondrial disease, which is a condition that affects energy-producing cells in the body. Brynn had always wanted a playground in her backyard and last June, this dream came true.

SMSC Donates \$1 Million to Spirit Lake Nation

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community recently announced a \$1 million grant to the Spirit Lake Nation of North Dakota for economic development. The grant will fund three different tribal projects. “Your generosity over the years has proven to be of great benefit to the people of our tribe. Pidamaya (thank you),” wrote Spirit Lake Tribal Chairman Myra Pearson.

Dokota Tribal Industries is a wholly owned defense contracting company of the Spirit Lake Tribe in Fort Totten, North Dakota, with a current employment of 80. A grant of \$250,000 will allow for debt retirement, a computer system upgrade and personnel. Varsity Bags Inc. is a manufacturer of custom sport, business and travel bags specializing in hockey bags. A \$250,000 grant will complete renovations on a vacant building for new headquarters. The third economic development project is a new tribal lumber company. A \$250,000 SMSC grant will pay

for start up costs. The project will help control material and building costs associated with the various housing and home repair programs available to tribal members.

The Spirit Lake Nation has more than 5,000 enrolled members living on the reservation which covers 405 square miles in east central North Dakota. The unemployment rate hovers near 60%. Since the year 2,000, the SMS has donated more than \$2.4 million to the Spirit Lake Nation.

Tunicas Donate to Coastal Wetland Restoration Project

Governor Blanco accepts a check for coastal wetland restoration from Chairman Earl J. Barbry, Sr. Over a three-year period, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe will contribute \$120,000 to the project.



From left to right: Joe Dean, former Athletic Director of LSU and La. Coastal Wetlands representative; Vice-President of Public Relations at Paragon Casino Resort, Linda Bordelon; Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco; Chairman of the Tunica- Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Earl J. Barbry, Sr.; Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Council Member Marshall Sampson; Lobbyists Bud Courson and Jim Nickel and Leader of the Acadiana Delegation, Rep. Mickey Frith.

Navajo Nation First Lady Vikki Shirley to Join National MADD Diversity Life Saving Advisory Council

The First Lady of the Navajo Nation, Vikki Shirley, has been selected to serve on the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Diversity Life Saving Advisory Council at the MADD Diversity Forum. The Advisory Council will organize and plan the National Diversity Forum II, which will be held in mid-May.

The Diversity Forum is an opportunity for MADD members to discuss attitudes, behaviors and trends regarding drunk driving, underage drinking, occupant protection and law enforcement. Participants identified barriers and successes of projects they have worked on that either succeeded or failed.

“This was an opportunity for us to get to know each other and educate one another about our various cultures and languages,” Mrs. Shirley said.

Mrs. Shirley and Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., lost their 29-year-old daughter, Tona Vee Shirley-Paymella, to a drunk driver two days after Thanksgiving Day in 2001. This led to their personal involvement in MADD to deal with the loss and they eventually joined the organization to raise awareness about drunk driving and the heartache it leads to on Navajoland.

Golden Eagle Casino Raises \$5,000 and 31 Bags of Toys for Toys For Tots Charity



Staff Sergeant Jose Moreno (left), USMC, accepts a check for \$5,565 for Toys for Tots from David Jones, Jr. (right), director of marketing for Golden Eagle Casino.

Golden Eagle Casino raised over \$5,000 cash and collected 31 bags of toys during its recent Toys for Tots drive. David Jones, Jr., director of marketing for Golden Eagle Casino, recently presented Staff Sergeant Jose Moreno, USMC, with a check for \$5,565 for USMC's Toys for

Tots Foundation. The toys and cash went to help children at Christmas in the northeast Kansas area, including Brown County and Horton. During December, Golden Eagle Casino customers could donate a toy, or a minimum of \$5, in exchange for casino coupon offers.

The USMC's Toys for Tots Foundation, an IRS recognized 501(c) (3) not-for-profit public charity, is the authorized fundraising and support organization for the Toys for Tots Program. The Foundation provides the funding and support needed for successful annual toy collection and distribution campaigns.

Super Bowl Host Committee Announces First \$1 Million Partner

The Arizona Super Bowl XLII Host Committee recently announced that the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation will become the Host Committee's first confirmed sponsor with a \$1 million partnership agreement. The announcement was made by Host Committee Chairman Michael Kennedy, Host Committee President and CEO Debbie Wardrop and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Tribal President Raphael Bear at the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort & Casino.

"One of the goals of the Host Committee is to promote community involvement that will leave legacies long after the Super Bowl has ended," said Debbie Wardrop. "We are excited to have the partnership of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and are looking forward to the opportunity to showcase their community presence and proud heritage in the coming years." ♣

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