

# The Indiana Casino Gaming News

A Monthly Publication of the Casino Association of Indiana

Volume 4, Issue 12.....December 2007



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President	2
In Brief...	2
Grand Victoria Volunteer of the Year	3
Giving thanks with Resorts East Chicago	3
Harrah's named a top donor	3
Horseshoe loans an employee to United Way	4
Argosy hosts baby shower for a cause	4

## Belterra plants seeds of love

### Program helps woman reconstruct garden

After more than 55 years in the same house, Tanya Curry recently had to move.

Two years after her husband of 54 years passed away, Curry said goodbye to the first home they bought together. She said goodbye to the memories of her marriage, to the place where she raised her children, and where her grandchildren visited.

And she said goodbye to the flower garden she spent decades building – a garden that, in the words of her daughter, Rhonda Cutter, “could have been in any flower magazine as a model flower garden.” There was no way her new home could bring back the memories of that garden.

Could it?

On a recent Saturday, members of the Belterra Resort and Spa management team joined with other volunteers to bring



*Team members pose with Tanya Curry (holding tree) in the yard they helped landscape for her.*

the beauty of Curry’s old flower garden into her new home. As the winner of this year’s Belterra Beautification program, Curry received \$2,500 for flowers and landscaping materials, and a day’s worth of free labor.

Each year, Belterra and Vevay Newspapers request applications for the Beautification program. And in July, one of those lucky was chosen to receive help in landscaping their property.

This year, Curry – who was nominated by her daughter, Rhonda Cutter – was chosen. After waiting for the weather to

become more fitting for landscaping work, Belterra General Manager Kevin Kaufman led a team of managers and other volunteers from the casino community to improve Tanya Curry’s yard.

Cutter said her goal in nominating her mother was to “try and repay her for all of her love ... (My parents) have never failed to support me in every aspect of life.” And today, with the work complete, Cutter’s mother can look out her front window and see the love she put into her old house, her children —

## Aztar’s new general manager ‘excited’ about projects

Casino Aztar was proud to announce this month the appointment of Mike Jones as its new general manager.

Jones, a 27-year veteran of the casino industry, comes to Aztar in Evansville from the Horizon and MontBleu Casinos in Tahoe, Nevada, where he has served as general manager. That property is owned by Tropicana Entertainment, which also owns Aztar after purchasing the company earlier this year.

Already, Jones has stated

his excitement about coming to Evansville – and about getting to work on several projects Aztar has in motion.

“I’m really excited about the construction of our new 1,000 seat showroom,” Jones said. “And I’m excited about the many other projects and marketing programs that the property has planned to improve the gaming and entertainment experience for our players.”

Despite the long move from Nevada, Jones’s family

already has roots in the Midwest; his wife, Mary Pat, is a native of Warsaw, Indiana, and has said she is “excited about moving back to the Midwest.” They have two children, Cooper and Matthew.

Jones will follow Maureen Keenan as Aztar’s general manager. Keenan replaced Jim Brown, Aztar’s first GM and the former president of the Casino Association of Indiana board, who stayed with the company more than 10 years before resigning in April.



# Proud to be an industry of giving

What a year!  
With the Holiday season upon us, it's time for one of my annual traditions: Sitting back and wondering, "Where did this year go?!"



I know I'm not the only one out there who does this; many of our legislators, I'm sure, feel like they just left the 2007 session; now, they are getting ready to head back for 2008. Businesses feel like they just did their annual reports for 2006, and now are putting the finishing touches on 2007. And everyone else ... well, didn't we just finish our holiday shopping for last year?

But the truth is, no matter how quickly it has gone, 2007 has been an eventful year in the casino industry. We saw several Indiana casinos go up for sale, and change ownership. Others welcomed new general managers. We see Illinois planning to expand gaming, and Kentucky elect a pro-casino governor.

No matter how much changed, though, this Holiday season is reminding us what stayed the same. Reading through this issue of *The Indiana Casino Gaming News*, I can't help but feel proud at all of the things our members do in their communities - this time of year, and year-round.

This Holiday season, Resorts East Chicago and Grand Victoria Casino bought a turkey for every employee, and donated the leftovers to charity. The Caesars Foundation gave away \$350,000; Horseshoe gave away an employee, loaning him to the local United Way to help with its campaign. Argosy threw a baby shower for a shelter that helps local, less-fortunate parents, while Grand Victoria recognized its Volunteer of the Year. And Belterra gave a local woman's yard a complete facelift.

It's that spirit of giving - to the community, to the less-fortunate, and to their employees - that makes me so proud to be part of Indiana's casino industry. Because there is no better gift than the satisfaction that comes with making someone's Holiday a little bit brighter.

On behalf of everyone here, I want to wish you all the happiest holiday, and a great 2008!

- Mike Smith, President



One North Capitol, Suite 520  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-231-7030  
Fax: 317-231-7035

Email [info@CasinoAssociation.org](mailto:info@CasinoAssociation.org)  
Problem Gambling Hotline: 1-800-994-8448



## In Brief...

### Grand Victoria employees take home turkey

Employees at Grand Victoria Casino once again found themselves on the receiving end of a terrific Thanksgiving dinner - to go.

As it has for the past several years, the casino provided all employees with a turkey and pumpkin pie to help in celebrating their Thanksgiving dinner. And, as an added bonus, the management team handing out the goods offered cook-

ies, cider, games, and other amenities as their employees picked up their birds.

Several employees, however, opted against taking their meal home, knowing that the unclaimed turkeys and pies would go to local food pantries. The result: more than 200 turkeys went to needy area families - a testament to the giving spirit of Grand Victoria employees!

### French Lick raises funds for Wish Foundation

The Indiana Children's Wish Foundation will get a big boost in the new year, thanks to the folks at the French Lick Resort Casino in Orange County.

This month, casino officials announced that they will sponsor the 2008 Indiana Children's Wish Foundation Bass Tournament, held May 3 at Patoka Lake. The event, held each year by Got 2 Love It Bass Tournaments, Inc., of Bloomington, is an annual benefit for the foundation, which helps grant wishes for ill and terminally ill children.

According to Bill and Donna Embry, owners of Got 2 Love It Bass Tournaments, Inc., the tournament has raised more than \$152,000 in its first 17 years. Last year's event raised a total of \$7,395 for the foundation.

And this year, aside from simply sponsoring the event, the French Lick Resort Casino will match every dollar raised by the tournament.

Anglers interested in entering the tournament can find entry forms online at [got2loveit.com](http://got2loveit.com), or in local businesses after Jan. 1.

## Admission and Wagering Taxes

Admission Tax, November '07	<b>\$ 6,243,003</b>
Wagering Tax, November '07	<b>\$ 59,696,023</b>
Admission Tax, Fiscal YTD	<b>\$ 34,944,504</b>
Wagering Tax, Fiscal YTD	<b>\$249,233,765</b>

Total Admission and Wagering Tax **\$284,178,269**

\*Fiscal Year Defined as July 1 to June 30

# Volunteer of the Year dedicated to ‘Good News’

One award won't slow down Angela Huddleston.

The winner of Grand Victoria Casino's 2006 Volunteer of the Year award, Huddleston recently was featured in the *Journal Press* for her work with the Dearborn County Schools' "Good News Club." And that's only one of the community organizations that the casino buffet employee assists.

In 10 years employed at Grand Victoria, Huddleston has become an active volunteer with the Triple Cord Ministry, the Dearborn County

Juvenile Detention Center, local day care centers, and various Bible School programs. She has dedicated herself to assisting those in need and to helping others find a clearer path to self-improvement.

And she has dedicated herself to the Good News Club – a club that follows the format of the 70-year-old, inter-denominational Child Evangelism Fellowship to engage young people in a fun and positive environment. Too often, children learn to share the concerns of routine family

life – health issues, financial problems, or unemployment.

Through the Good News Club, they become connected to a larger community, where they can work to better themselves and their families in a positive, focused environment.

Huddleston and her husband, Jim – who has been in Grand Victoria's engineering department since 1997 – have become cornerstones of that program.

Grand Victoria's 2007 Volunteer of the Year will be announced in January.



Angela Huddleston

## Resorts East Chicago offers thanks

Team members at Resorts East Chicago gave the Salvation Army something to be thankful for this holiday season – then received a gift for their efforts.

On November 20, several Resorts team members volunteered to give back, participating in their annual program at the East Chicago Salvation Army. The Resorts East Chicago culinary team prepared and provided traditional Thanksgiving meals, then were joined by other employees at the Salvation Army to serve them to more than 300 senior citizens and less-fortunate residents in the community.

Each year, Resorts teams with the Salvation Army to give back to the community by feeding those who can't afford a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. This year, Resorts went the extra mile to thank its own team members at Thanksgiving as well.

On Friday, November 16, members of the Resorts East Chicago Executive Team braved the cold weather to hand out Thanksgiving turkeys to team members. Employees visited the distribution center just outside the parking garage to pick up their turkeys just in time for Thanksgiving.



**Top picture:** Team members collect their turkeys. **Bottom picture:** Sharon Klus of Resorts' Finance Department wears a chef hat as she serves a family at the Salvation Army.



## Harrah's named top donor

A leading business magazine recently announced that Harrah's Entertainment is among the top corporate donors in the country.

In 2006, Harrah's – owner of Indiana's Horseshoe Casino and Caesars Indiana – provided \$76.8 million to non-profit organizations across the country, according to the November 26 issue of *Business Week*. That is approximately \$1.5 million per week, making Harrah's the only gaming company on the list.

In addition, Harrah's was ranked the "most generous cash givers as a percentage of pretax profits," with 9.2 percent of its pre-tax profit directed to nonprofit organizations. The company also ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the total "largest cash givers" category.

# Horseshoe employee helping with United Way

The Horseshoe Casino team is down a man this month – but don't worry. He'll come back.

Security Supervisor Jay Woods is just out on loan. Two months ago, Jay was tapped to become Horseshoe's loaned executive for the Lake Area United Way, where he is assisting with the annual fund-raising campaign.

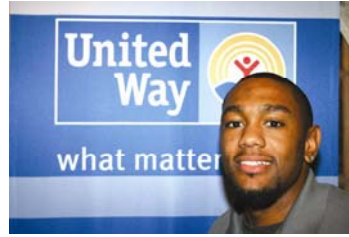
"It's been a great experience," Jay said. "I've met a lot of important people, made some future contacts, and

learned how to be more organized. Also, I was blown away to find out that (TITLE) Rick Mazer is so active in our community, and he's not even originally from the area.

"Every time I visited a United Way member agency, employees there would comment on knowing Rick and how he's a great contributor to the agency."

And so is the Horseshoe property.

Jay is spending his time with the United Way contact-



ing businesses that have already donated to the \$5 million United Way campaign and encouraging them to be continuous givers.

The work has given Jay a better understanding of the impact the United Way has on

Northwest Indiana, serving as a fiduciary agency for 34 different member agencies.

"These programs cater to women, children, the homeless, the elderly, and families in crisis," Jay said. "Lake Area United Way keeps all the money it raises right here in Lake County, so the money raised stays right here and helps people in this area."

Horseshoe's annual employee United Way campaign also is under way.

*Attendees at the Argosy Community Action Team's shower for the Baby Basket gather around the pile of gifts, which will benefit parents in need during the holidays.*



## Argosy helps boost Baby Basket

The Argosy Community Action Team recently had a baby shower, but there was not an expectant mother in the house.

In fact, this shower was not for anyone's family member, friend, or co-worker. This baby shower at Argosy Casino Resort was for the benefit of the Dearborn County Baby Basket.

Argosy employees donated 1,670 diapers, 21 packs of baby wipes, and numerous other items at the shower, which took place during employee lunch hours.

They were treated with cake and ice cream for their efforts – but the real treat was their ability to help a worthy

cause. The Baby Basket is a non-profit volunteer organization that operates a "store" for those who have small children, but are in need of the resources to care for them.

Parents, parents-to-be, and pregnant teens earn verification forms from their doctors, counselors or schools, then bring those forms to the Baby Basket Store to redeem them for diapers, wipes, clothes, or other items.

In order to operate, the store relies on community support and donations – which is why Community Action Team member Nikki Smith opted to host a shower at Argosy.



## Caesars Foundation awards \$350,000

The Caesars Foundation of Floyd County awarded more than \$350,000 in grants this month, helping local organizations do their part for those in need.

Social services and low-cost home construction led the field of recipients, with a total of \$369,847 disbursed. In all, that money went to 32 different organizations, with 11 bringing in this year's maximum award of \$20,000. It was the second time the Foundation awarded grants this year; the spring total came in about \$20,000 lower.

The total amount awarded is based on Caesars Indiana casino revenue.

