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(Note New Fax #)

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***Proudly Serving Charitable Gambling Organizations Throughout Minnesota***

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

In the process of updating our annual ACM Charitable Gambling Fact Sheet this past year we became painfully aware that our charitable contributions had been reduced to below our contributions level in 1986. In 1986, one year after the beginning of charitable gambling in Minnesota, licensed organizations contributed \$44.4 million to their communities (and paid \$8.2 million in charitable gambling taxes). In 2008, these tax exempt/nonprofit organizations contributed \$43.5 million (and paid \$40.8 million in charitable gambling taxes). Minnesota's 1,300 charitable gambling organizations, their 325,000 members, and the communities they serve throughout Minnesota need your help!!!

During the 2009 Legislative Session, Allied Charities of Minnesota pushed two initiatives that would have allowed for electronic linked bingo in Minnesota and reduced and simplified Minnesota's extremely onerous charitable gambling tax structure. On average Minnesota charitable gambling organizations pay double the tax rate paid by Minnesota for profit businesses. We believed that allowing for electronic linked bingo - which basically just combines bingo, electronic bingo devices, and linked bingo games which are all legal under current Minnesota Lawful Gambling Statutes - to be played at our sites would provide a much needed boost in revenues for our organizations and significantly increase our charitable contributions. Because charitable gambling started with bingo back in the 1940's, we don't know why this form of gaming should be a threat to our competitors.

Unfortunately, we were not successful last session.

Allied Charities Of Minnesota and its member organizations from throughout the state of Minnesota are renewing and redoubling efforts in the 2010 Legislative Session to pass an electronic linked bingo initiative in conjunction with charitable gambling tax reduction and reform. ***We are in the process of revising and combining last year's initiatives to better reflect current technology and be revenue neutral to the state general fund.***

With the increased revenues from electronic linked bingo we will have an opportunity to reduce and reform our extremely onerous charitable gambling tax structure while adding to our bottom line for the programs, projects, and activities we support in virtually every community across this great state. This revised legislation will not only substantially increase funding for donations to the community organizations we help, it will also help simplify the state taxes that charitable gambling organizations pay while remaining revenue neutral to the state general fund. **We hope you will be able to support this year's Charitable Gambling Electronic Linked Bingo/Tax Reform & Reduction Bill.**

This legislative package is critical if nonprofit organizations are going to continue to rely on charitable gambling as an effective broad based fund-raising tool in their communities. These changes are needed if charitable gambling is going to survive as we know it today. For more information please watch the enclosed DVD about how electronic linked bingo will work. We are also enclosing our latest ACM Charitable Gambling Fact Sheet and an Electronic Linked Bingo Q & A Sheet.

Respectfully,

*King Wilson*  
King Wilson  
Executive Director



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Honorable

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