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## **Forgotten Lottery Ticket a \$1 Million Winner** *Oak Lawn resident rediscovers instant ticket, pockets jackpot*

**Oak Lawn, IL– May 28, 2008** – Without realizing it, Patricia Kakos kept an Illinois Lottery ticket worth \$1 million inside a drawer in her home for weeks.

“I bought twenty dollars worth of Lottery instant tickets one morning, just like I always do during the week,” said Patricia, who has faithfully played Lottery games for more than a decade. “When I came home, I started to scratch off the tickets, but I got distracted. So, I put them in a drawer where I keep all my stationery, thinking I would finish them later. Then, I forgot all about them.”

Patricia didn’t even think about the tickets until it came time to pay some monthly bills. “I was surprised to see them still sitting in the drawer,” the Oak Lawn resident said. The surprises had only begun for Patricia and her husband, Robert. “I scratched off each of the tickets and saw that I’d won \$1 million on Jackpot Gold,” the lucky mother of two said. “I just kept thinking, ‘This can’t be real.’ So, I asked my husband to come have a look.”

After Robert confirmed her winnings, Patricia’s surprise turned into pure joy. “I just started screaming my little heart out,” she said. “I hadn’t been that happy since I saw my granddaughter being born.”

Patricia plans to dedicate most of her winnings to her family. After adding some finishing touches to her son’s upcoming wedding, she will help her daughter purchase a new house.

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Patricia, who has already retired, will also be able to invest more in her hobby of collecting rare frog figurines. As she looks forward to enjoying her newfound wealth, Patricia offers advice to other Lottery players: “Before the million, the most I had ever won playing Lottery was \$150, off a Mega Millions ticket a few years ago. You just have to keep playing and hoping, because you never know.”

Rich Oil, located at 6760 W. 111<sup>th</sup> Street in Worth, Ill., will receive a bonus of 1 percent of the total winnings, or \$10,000, for selling the winning ticket.

### **About the Illinois Lottery**

Founded in 1974, the Illinois Lottery is a state agency with annual sales over \$2 billion. Since its inception, the Lottery has contributed more than \$14 billion to the state Common School Fund to assist K-12 public schools. Players must be at least 18 years old. For more information on the Illinois Lottery please visit our Web site at [www.illinoislottery.com](http://www.illinoislottery.com).

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