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Lucky Man Wins Lottery Twice In Two Years

*Glen Ellyn resident wins \$1 million from Illinois Lottery instant ticket
and encourages others to “stay hopeful”*

Glen Ellyn, IL – January 17, 2008 - Viswanathan Puthenmadom must be the luckiest man around. In March of 2006 he won \$2 million from an Illinois Lottery instant ticket, and recently won another \$1 million from the “Double My Million” instant ticket.

Puthenmadom, an IT manager, was on his way to work when he decided to stop at a local convenience store to cash in on a small winning he received from a Lotto drawing the previous evening. Before leaving, he purchased a couple of instant tickets, which he now buys frequently after winning in 2006. He enjoys playing the \$10 and \$20 instant tickets the most because he feels the odds are better. As it turned out, the odds were in his favor and both tickets purchased that day resulted in a win for Puthenmadom. The first ticket prize amount was \$20, while the second ticket gained him an additional \$1 million. Although this is Puthenmadom’s second time winning the Illinois Lottery, he said he has remained pretty composed given the circumstances.

“The first time I won I was really shocked and excited, but when I won the second time, I just felt blessed,” said Puthenmadom. “I still went to work as if nothing happened and I didn’t tell anyone. However, I did leave early so I could claim my winnings. It’s a very humbling experience and I hope that my story serves as a message for others to stay hopeful.”

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While Puthenmadom used his first winnings to invest in a larger home for his family, he said he will save most of the money from the \$1 million winnings and continue to live his current lifestyle. However, he does plan to use some of the money to care for his aging parents and invest in his children's college education.

Convenient Food Store, located at 1599 Glen Ellyn Rd. in Glendale Heights, will receive a bonus of 1 percent of the top prize, or \$10,000, for selling the 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.