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The Illinois Lottery and Illinois Department of Public Health Launch New Ticket

Play it Forward: New *Ticket for the Cure* Lottery Game Supports the Fight Against Breast Cancer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – May 7, 2009 – In recognition of mothers, sisters, friends and daughters across the state, the Illinois Lottery Acting Superintendent Jodie Winnett and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Director Dr. Damon T. Arnold announced the newest instant ticket where 100 percent of the net proceeds support the fight against breast cancer in Illinois. The Illinois Lottery and IDPH are encouraging players to purchase the *Ticket for the Cure* instant ticket and pass along their support to the one out of every eight women who will develop breast cancer.

“To date, the *Ticket for the Cure* instant ticket has generated more than \$6.6 million used to fund breast cancer research, education and services for breast cancer patients and their families in Illinois,” said Acting Superintendent Winnett. “We are encouraging our players to ‘play it forward’ by purchasing a ticket today.”

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Illinois women. It is estimated 8,800 women in Illinois will develop breast cancer this year, and the disease is estimated to claim the lives of 1,970 women.

“Early detection is the key to surviving breast cancer. If found early, the five year survival rate for breast cancer is 98 percent, but when detected in later stages, that survival rate drops to 26 percent. Whether it’s in its early stages or late stages, women sometimes need help and support to fight breast cancer and funding from the *Ticket for the Cure* lottery game has

allowed many organizations across Illinois to provide that help and support,” said Dr. Arnold. “I want to encourage everyone this Mother’s Day to namelessly help a woman, pay it forward and ‘Play it Forward’ by purchasing the newest *Ticket for the Cure* lottery game.”

Net revenue from the sale of the *Ticket for the Cure* is used to provide grants to not-for-profit organizations to help fund breast cancer research, community education projects and supportive services for women with breast cancer. Not-for-profit organizations based in Illinois are eligible to apply for competitive community grants overseen by the *Ticket for the Cure* Advisory Board and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health. Not-for-profit research institutions are eligible to apply for research grants. For this current fiscal year, approximately \$1.2 million was given to 52 community-based organizations across Illinois for breast cancer education and outreach and \$405,000 to fund nine research grants. The newly designed *Ticket for the Cure* is available at various Illinois Lottery retail locations across the state. Each ticket cost \$2 and offers four top prizes of \$20,000. The odds for this ticket are 1 in 4.59 and give players two ways to play by matching YOUR NUMBERS to either WINNING NUMBER or get a STAR symbol to win a prize automatically.

For more information regarding *Ticket for the Cure* please visit the Illinois Lottery Web site at www.illinoislottery.com or for more information regarding breast cancer, visit www.idph.state.il.us.

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.

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