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Contact: Lourdes Castellanos

Phone: 219.678.8255 E-mail: [info@nwihouseraffle.org](mailto:info@nwihouseraffle.org)

**MORE TIME TO BUY AND WIN!**  
**NWI HOUSE RAFFLE EXTENDS TICKET SALES**

Tuesday, July 26, 2011, Northwest Indiana. – Considered one of the best raffles with the best odds, you can STILL buy your chance to win \$225,000 cash or a brand new home. The Northwest Indiana House Raffle is extending ticket sales, giving people more time to buy, participate, and win.

The Northwest Indiana House Raffle kicked off its 16th annual campaign on June 4<sup>th</sup> this year and ticket sales should have ended today; however, the still struggling economy has impacted sales and organizers agreed yesterday to extend the campaign. The official drawing was to have taken place this Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Marian Education Center, at St. Anthony Medical Center but has been moved to Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> instead at the same location and time.

The NWI House Raffle offers 75 cash prizes and the grand prize winner may choose the \$225,000 cash prize or 1 of 7 brand new homes (participating NWI House Raffle homes) in Lake County, Indiana. Odds are 1 in 80 to win a prize. The goal each year is to sell 6,000 tickets but at least 4,100 tickets MUST be sold to award all 75 prizes. That information is included on the back of all tickets so that buyers are aware that if ticket sales are below 4,100, the raffle may be extended. To date, 3,100 tickets have been sold – 1,000 below the minimum needed to award all cash prizes; therefore, the decision was made to extend.

This is not the first time the NWI House Raffle has had to extend ticket sales, according to beneficiaries. “We extended in 2009 and when we explain to ticket buyers and participants that we absolutely want to award all 75 prizes rather than a 50/50 raffle, they understand and don’t mind the extension,” St. Jude House Executive Director Mary Govert said. The NWI House Raffle could have opted for a 50/50 because the minimum ticket sales were not met Govert added. “We would never want to do that. The raffle helps our organizations and missions

change lives of those in need, and we realize that the cash awards we offer also change lives of those that participate and win,” Govert explained.

Crossroads YMCA CEO Phil Mallers said he has no doubt the NWI House Raffle will reach their ticket sales minimum, “The economy is taking its toll, we realize that, and we know that each and every ticket sale is not just a chance for that buyer to win, but in many cases, it’s a sacrifice. We thank those people who choose to give and make a difference in the lives of those who are really struggling, especially now.”

Organizers are encouraging prospective ticket buyers to also consider buying as a group. “You can buy a ticket with family members, your co-workers, a church group, a bunco or golfing group. If everyone in the group pitches in for one ticket, and depending how many are in the group, each person would pay just a fraction of \$150 [ticket],” Govert said.

Earlier this month, the public was invited to the NWI House Raffle Home Tour. The seven participating homes, and options for the grand prize winner, opened their doors for participating ticket buyers and perspective buyers to tour. The Home Tour offered prizes to those that visited at least four of the seven homes. The prizes included a trip for two to Las Vegas – sponsored by The Times Media Company, a 50-inch flat panel television – courtesy of Nason’s Appliances, and three \$500 cash prizes provided by the NWI House Raffle. The winners of the Home Tour contest are Dawn Meadows – Crown Point, IN, Ramiro Martinez – Hammond, IN, Barbara Alvarez – Crown Point, IN, H. Louise Brown – Crown Point, IN, and Pat Melcic – Merrillville, IN.

The NWI House Raffle drawing will be held on Friday, September 30, 2011 at 10am at the Marian Education Center located at St. Anthony Medical Center, 1201 South Main St., Crown Point, IN. Participants are invited to attend as 75 lucky ticket buyers’ names will be drawn by a blindfolded nun. For more information visit [www.nwihouseraffle.org](http://www.nwihouseraffle.org). Tickets may be purchased by phone 219.663.5810/ toll free 888.663.5810 or at the Southlake YMCA located at 1450 S. Court St., Crown Point, IN.

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