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CHARITABLE BINGO IN TEXAS HAS RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

Highest gross receipts since charitable bingo was legalized in 1981
\$28.5 million distributed for charitable purposes

(AUSTIN) – The Charitable Bingo Operations Division (CBOD) of the Texas Lottery Commission announced today that total gross receipts for calendar year 2015 exceeded \$756.7 million, a more than \$17 million increase from calendar year 2014. This is the highest gross receipts on record since charitable bingo was legalized in Texas in 1981.

“We want to thank all the members of the charitable bingo industry for making 2015 a record-breaking year,” said Charitable Bingo Operations Director Alfonso D. Royal III. “With \$28.5 million distributed for charitable purposes in 2015, charitable bingo continues to play an important role in assisting many Texas non-profit organizations.”

2015 charitable distributions saw a 10.3 percent increase over 2014. Texas has more than 1,000 charitable organizations that are licensed to conduct bingo. These non-profit organizations support local communities throughout the state and benefit causes that include education scholarships, children, veterans, senior citizens, food banks and job assistance.

During calendar year 2015, \$20.2 million was deposited into the state’s General Revenue Fund and an additional \$13.8 million was allocated to cities and counties that share in the prize fees collected. Total prizes reported paid to players in 2015 was more than \$575.2 million, the highest in the history of charitable bingo in Texas.

2015 Texas Charitable Bingo Distributions	
Total Gross Receipts	\$ 756.7 million
Charitable Distributions	\$ 28.5 million
Total Prizes	\$ 575.2 million

Other highlights for calendar year 2015 include:

- The implementation of the Charitable Bingo Division’s Bingo Operating Services System
(more)

(BOSS), a vastly improved, more efficient bingo operating system used daily by staff in the administration and management of charitable bingo. BOSS, funded by a one-time General Revenue appropriation by the 83rd Texas Legislature, allows licensees and bingo workers to submit applications and reports and to remit payments online. BOSS enables the CBOD to provide a fiscal analysis of a licensees reported sales and expenditures, assisting licensees to perform more efficiently and to increase their charitable distributions.

- Audit and game inspection activities increased 45 percent in comparison to the prior year (278 in 2015 compared to 192 in 2014). These efforts help determine that proceeds from charitable bingo are used for lawful purposes and to ensure charitable bingo games are conducted fairly.

- CBOD's robust audit and game inspection program also resulted in:
 - 24 active consent orders totaling \$211,153 related to the operation of illegal gaming machines in licensed bingo locations and the under reporting of prize fees.
 - 45 audits that resulted in the redepositing of \$84,471 into affected organizations' bingo bank accounts. The audits revealed incorrect valuation of merchandise prizes, lack of documentation for expenses, and unreasonable or unnecessary expenses. Funds were returned to organizations as charitable distributions.

- Statewide training programs were attended by approximately 320 industry representatives and were held in bingo halls in Austin, Arlington, San Antonio, and Houston. The four sessions provided training on accounting, licensing, audit, bingo operations, and the bingo service portal.

"We strive to provide consistent, effective, and efficient regulation to the charitable bingo industry in Texas and we will continue to work with the industry on policies that benefit the non-profit organizations that conduct authorized bingo for charitable purposes," said Royal.

About Charitable Bingo

The Charitable Bingo Operations Division of the Texas Lottery Commission is charged with the strict control and close supervision of bingo conducted in Texas. Charitable Bingo provides authorized organizations the opportunity to raise funds for their charitable purposes by conducting bingo and determines that all charitable bingo funds are used for an authorized purpose and that bingo is conducted fairly. Charitable Bingo works to achieve voluntary compliance and assist licensees through training and education. For more information about charitable bingo, please visit the official Texas Charitable Bingo website at www.txbingo.org.