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## **Renaissance Benefit to Support Local Education Efforts**

**CARLSBAD, N.M., September 30, 2014** – Carlsbad residents Sergio Olivas, Lissa Nyrkkaren and Eloy Castaneda had the winning tickets for the 2014 Renaissance Program, Inc.'s annual benefit. The trio won \$500, \$250 and \$100, respectively, in the benefit to help support local education efforts. The drawing was held September 24 at the Carlsbad Community Foundation in downtown Carlsbad.

“I thank the Carlsbad community for a very successful 2014 Renaissance Program, Inc. annual benefit,” said Renaissance President Truth LaClair. “Renaissance is not simply a program; it is a process, an attitude. By recognizing a variety of students with specific incentives and other awards throughout the year, we strive to help make learning more enjoyable and raise the self-esteem of children in our schools. We encourage and recognize achievement, improvement, attendance and citizenship hoping students will take these fine attributes into life-long successes.”

The winning ticket was drawn by Preston Schoolcraft, a student at the Carlsbad Sixth Grade Academy. Haiven Schoolcraft, a student at Sunset Elementary School drew the other two winning tickets.

Olivas purchased his \$500-winning ticket from his nephew Nathan Montez, who attends the Early Childhood Education Center. Nyrkkaren purchased her \$250-winning ticket from her son, Christian Salcido, a student at Puckett Elementary School. Castaneda's \$100-winning

ticket was purchased from Sixth Grade Academy student Alyssa Jasso. Students who sold the three winning tickets won a \$10 prize for their efforts.

The 2014-2015 school year marks over 25 years that the Renaissance Program. Inc., a 501c3 organization, has recognized and supported Carlsbad students. The organization's accomplishments include:

- Becoming the first school district in the nation to develop and sustain a comprehensive, district-wide K-12 program
- Having the longest continuous running K-12 program in the nation
- Developing viable school and community partnerships
- Being a significant component of both the district's and most schools' plans for success
- Working closely with the Character Counts! Program to recognize students who demonstrate positive values that encourage school success

The Carlsbad Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life for the people of our community and South Eddy County.

**PHOTO:** Pictured left to right, Jennifer Schoolcraft (Carlsbad Intermediate School), Preston Schoolcraft, Nathan Montez (who sold the winning ticket), winner Sergio Olivas' sister Luvia Olivas, Truth LaClair (Renaissance president) and Shanna York (Carlsbad Community Foundation).

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