

October 2014

To All Ohio Charitable Gaming Licensees:

As you certainly know by now, charitable bingo and gaming in Ohio has been under enormous pressure in recent years. With four casinos, seven racinos and new paper and electronic products coming from the Ohio Lottery, we are facing challenging competitors who hope to gain advantage in the gaming market by luring our players to their venues. These competitors are backed by big business interests and not afraid to throw their weight around. Who is working to protect your charitable gaming interests?

Before Ohio voters authorized the Lottery and casinos, Ohio voters first voted to approve charitable gaming. For decades we have all worked together to turn charitable gaming fundraising into meaningful changes and investments in our communities and citizens. Somehow after all that time our stories have been lost, and elected officials and the media have become fixated on what is new and shiny—casinos, racinos and new Lottery products.

In order to have our voices and stories heard once again there have been recent discussions about creating a coalition of organizations that use gaming as a means of fundraising. This coalition would work together on issues of importance to charitable gaming in Ohio and would provide a united voice for charitable gaming so that we can work to see positive changes for our industry.

To make sure the coalition is meeting the needs you see, we are asking each organization in the state to tell us what would make a difference. In short, what changes would help you maintain or even increase your fundraising dollars through charitable gaming? There is a brief survey enclosed and we encourage you to complete this so we can all get to work on the most important issues you face.

We are certainly interested in also learning what organizations are willing to be a part of this effort. The time commitment would be minimal but we believe the results could be significant. We expect to host meetings in all regions of Ohio in the next several weeks and will certainly notify you of these events. We have also created a coalition website, www.unitedcharitiesofohio.org, and encourage you to visit the site. If you believe in our efforts, please let us know if we can include you on our list of supporters.

Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return it to us in the enclosed stamped and addressed envelope by no later than October 31, 2014.

We thank you for your time and consideration as we work together to face the challenges ahead.

Respectfully and on behalf of the United Charities of Ohio,

Johnathan A. Smith, President
The Lancaster Bingo Company, Inc.