

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS OF 2009

CHEROKEE, NC – Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel recognized three employees for outstanding community service at its annual HERO (Harrah's Employees Reaching Out) Awards Banquet. The Valentine's Day themed banquet was held Thursday evening.

Administrative Assistant Dee Boozer from the casino's marketing department received the HERO of the Year Award. Dee accumulated 663 hours of volunteer service in 2009. Most of the hours came from a project "Handmade by HERO". Dee made 15 afghans for residents of Mountain View Manor in Bryson City. Janna Hyatt coordinates the HERO program and helps Harrah's Cherokee employees find events and places where their volunteer hours can really make a difference.

Also recognized at the banquet was HR manager Doris Johnson. Doris had given 288 hours to the Cherokee Central Schools Booster Club. Doris was recognized for her community service outside of the official HERO events.

Mary Nicholson won the steppin' up award for her dedication to participating in HERO activities and active encouragement and recruitment of other employees for volunteer projects.

Pat Hornbuckle of Marketing received a Lifetime Achievement Award. Pat was Community HERO of the Year for 2007 and 2008 and volunteered 1,921.5 hours working in HERO events and in her community, particularly at the Cherokee Dialysis Center. Council members Perry Shell and Tommye Saunooke were on hand to present Pat with her award.

In all, 525 volunteers donated 7,624 volunteer hours back to the area. Harrah's Cherokee is ranked number three in the corporation for community involvement.

At the banquet, all of the HERO volunteers were thanked and congratulated by Senior Vice President and General Manager Darold Londo and banquet speaker Autumn McCarver of Manna Food Bank.

Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel is an enterprise of the Eastern Band of Cherokee, located 50 miles west of Asheville at the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Harrah's Cherokee Casino is open 24-hours-a-day to guests who are 21-years-of-age or older. For more information about Harrah's Cherokee, please call 1-800-HARRAHS or visit our website at www.harrahs.com.