



**SEMINOLE
GAMING**

BIG CYPRESS | BRIGHTON | COCONUT CREEK | HOLLYWOOD | IMMOKALEE | TAMPA



For Immediate Release
November 17, 2010

Contacts: Gina Morales, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tampa (813) 627-7771, Gina.Morales@seminolehardrock.com
Gary Bitner, Bitner Goodman, (954) 849-9201; Gary@bitnergoodman.com

Record \$1.75 Million to Fund Treatment Programs For Compulsive Gamblers at Orlando Agency

Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling receives oversized check from Seminole Tribe of Florida

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. (Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010) – The largest cash infusion in the history of the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling means compulsive gamblers from throughout Florida will now be able to receive treatment to help overcome their gambling addiction.

At a 1 p.m. ceremony today, the Seminole Tribe of Florida presented an oversized check for \$1.75 million to FCCG board president Paul Ashe and executive director Pat Fowler, who said the money will be used to expand treatment options for the agency's clients. The check was presented by John Fontana, president of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, one of seven Seminole casinos in Florida.

For more than a decade, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has been the largest voluntary contributor to the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling and has been a strong supporter of the organization. Fontana serves on the FCCG Board of Directors. In addition, Seminole Casinos spend millions of dollars every year to promote the FCCG's 888-ADMIT-IT HelpLine, which appears in all ads and marketing materials produced by Seminole Casinos. The increase in calls to the helpline is partly attributed to this major promotional push.

The \$1.75 million treatment windfall comes as a result of the recently-established gaming compact between the State of Florida and the Seminole Tribe. The compact calls for an annual payment to the FCCG of \$250,000 per casino for each of the Tribe's seven casinos. The money is to be paid quarterly. The Tribe has already paid \$875,000, one half of its first-year commitment.

"Funding through the compact will ensure callers to the 888-ADMIT-IT HelpLine will be able to access appropriate treatment services regardless of their ability to pay," said FCCG executive director Pat Fowler.

(more)

Record \$1.75 Million to Florida Council for Compulsive Gambling, Page Two

Also on hand for today's check presentation ceremony was Florida Governor Charlie Crist, who is largely credited with negotiating the gaming compact, which went into effect in early July following approval by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"The Seminole Tribe and its casinos are committed to the mission of the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling and we will do everything possible to help compulsive gamblers get the treatment they need," said Fontana. "The additional \$1.75 million in cash will help to fund treatment programs throughout the state."

Prior to the \$1.75 million from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the largest source of revenue for the FCCG has been the State of Florida, which earmarks more than \$1 million annually from Florida Lottery revenues for public awareness, education and prevention.

About the Seminole Tribe of Florida

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is 3,500-member federally-recognized Indian Tribe headquartered in Hollywood. It is a sovereign government with an elected Tribal Council of five members. Governmental expenditures include police and fire protection, emergency medical services, education, health care, housing, water treatment, economic development, parks and recreation. More than 90 percent of the Tribe's budget is derived from gaming revenue generated at seven casinos throughout Florida, including the Seminole Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos in Hollywood and Tampa. The Seminole Tribe also owns Orlando-based Hard Rock International, which manages and licenses Hard Rock Cafes, Hotels and Casinos throughout the world.

###