



NEWS RELEASE

Philip Earhart, John Stelly and L'Auberge Du Lac Casino Resort, named Philanthropists of the Year

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(Lake Charles, LA)— Philip Earhart, John Stelly and L'Auberge Du Lac Casino Resort were honored for giving their time, talent and treasure for the betterment of Southwest Louisiana, during the Philanthropy Celebration and Awards reception held February 10th at L'Auberge Du Lac Casino Resort. The Philanthropy Night Celebration is a national event which recognizes the profound impact that philanthropy has on the fabric of society. The event is organized by The Family Foundation of Southwest Louisiana, the philanthropic arm of Family and Youth. Philanthropy is the act of individual citizens contributing money or good, along with their time and skills, to promote the well being of others and the betterment of the community in which they live and work.

Philip Earhart, Regional President of BusinessFirst Bank in Lake Charles is an asset to Southwest Louisiana and to the Family Foundation of Southwest Louisiana. Phil served as a Trustee and Chair of the Family Foundation of Southwest Louisiana for the past several years. He has taken a leadership role and has been instrumental in securing endowments for the Foundation because he believes that investing in children and families secures the future of our communities. He spent countless hours preparing for, and attending meetings with potential donors to encourage them to establish an endowment with the Foundation. To date endowments that Phil secured have funded child advocacy programs, youth leadership development, constructive and life-changing counseling, and support of autistic families. Phil is so committed to connecting

donors to the children, families and community development priorities that he established his own endowment with the Foundation.

The Family Foundation is not the only organization who has benefited from Phil's time, talent, and treasure. He has volunteered for, and served on the board for several community organizations including the Junior Achievement of Southwest Louisiana, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Chamber of the Southwest, and the Calcasieu Area Boy Scouts... just to name a few. He was selected as Volunteer of the Year in 2004 for his outstanding contribution of time, effort and talent resulting in benefit to the United Way of Southwest Louisiana and to the community. Phil's active involvement in Southwest Louisiana proves that through the power of giving...children, family and community dreams are positively affected. It is safe to say that Phil's impact on Southwest Louisiana will be felt for generations to come because of his work with the Family Foundation

John F. Stelly, the owner of Lake Charles Nissan, comes from humble beginnings. Born in New Orleans, LA to a welder and a homemaker, Stelly is the only son in a brood of 8. He started working in the automotive industry immediately after graduating from St. Augustine High School, and after 14 years, and working his way up to General Manager, he realized his talent and decided to attend Dealer Development School.

In December 2002, John Stelly moved to Lake Charles with his wife Sylvia, established three dealerships, and quickly became involved in the community. He served on the board of ABC Pregnancy Center, and currently serves on the board of The Chamber of Commerce and La Familia Resource Center. He also serves on the Nissan National and Regional Advisory boards, which enables him to voice out local community concerns to Nissan's corporate level. John Stelly firmly believes in the value of giving to the community. Both he, and his wife Sylvia, regularly donate their time, talent and their treasure to a number of the area's non-profit organizations, schools, and churches. On Stelly's desk is a plaque that reads "He who walks with God reaches his destination," a constant reminder of what Stelly holds near and dear to his heart.

L'Auberge du Lac Casino Resort epitomizes the ideal corporate community partner. The company opened the doors to its Lake Charles facility in May, 2005 and quickly became a prime example of how businesses can be an enormous force for improving our community, above and beyond the effects of the economic opportunity they create. Through the leadership and example of the company's top management, corporate philanthropy has become a source of pride and camaraderie among L'Auberge du lac Casino Resort management and staff. Company employees devote a good amount of their time and talent in helping make life better in Southwest Louisiana. Whether it's serving on the board of directors for a non-profit organization, walking for a healthy heart, collecting Toys for Tots, or helping out young people improve their culinary skills, you can count on L'Auberge employees to do whatever they can to help and contribute to a better Southwest Louisiana.

The company enthusiastically serves the community because it is important to the company and their employees. As a corporation, L'Auberge du lac Casino Resort has a strong affinity for law enforcement; as well as women's, senior citizens, minority, leadership and military issues; but support a wide variety of causes

affecting the community. From July, 2008 through July, 2009 L'Auberge du lac Casino Resort has made a civic impact of \$86,955,477 to the Southwest Louisiana community. Some of its beneficiaries are:

- Junior Achievement
- Black Heritage Festival
- Calcasieu Women's Shelter
- Literacy Council of SWLA
- The Calcasieu Medical Society
- Crime stoppers
- Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
- Whistle Stop
- Free to Breathe Foundation
- March of Dimes
- Vibe 105 Foundation
- Cops and Jocks
- McNeese and SOWELA Foundation, and many, many more

Family & Youth is celebrating 40 years of service in Southwest Louisiana, and is a United Way Agency. Family & Youth believes that all individuals possess the ability to solve their own challenges and live full and healthy lives when support is available. It is the mission of Family & Youth to provide affordable and professional support through programs and services dedicated to the advocacy, counseling, and education for the people of Southwest Louisiana. Our effort and commitment to building family values will guarantee a stable and stronger community. For experienced professional assistance, contact Family & Youth at 337-436-9533 or 1-888-414-FYCA.

Pictured (l-r) Julio Galan- Executive Director of The Family Foundation of SWLA with the 2009 Philanthropists of the Year, Philip Earhart, Larry Lepinski for L'Auberge Du Lac Casino Resort, and John Stelly.

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Family & Youth
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