Paddlewheel Hotel & Casino Donates 200 Lbs. Of Shrimp & Baby Back Ribs To AFAN Food Bank



This week, the Paddlewheel Hotel & Casino donated 200 pounds of food to the AFAN (Aid for AIDS of Nevada) Food Bank -- 100 pounds of their famous Baby Back Ribs (already cooked) and 100 pounds of frozen breaded Fried Shrimp. The Paddlewheel is the first Las Vegas hotel to make such a donation to the non-profit, emotional support organization for AIDS, ARC (AIDS-Related Condition) amd HIV positive people.

When approached by the organization's Food Bank Founder, Brian Grable, Paddlewheel Director of Food & Beverage, Ramon Perez, had only two questions, "When do you want the food?" and "How much do you want?"

"This is a breakthrough for our food bank," says Grable. "Until now, we haven't had much response from any of the hotels for help in any area to help clients. The food bank will distribute the ribs and shrimp from the Paddlewheel among the 50 active clients currently in need of AFAN services."

Explains Grable, "This donation is particularly valuable to the clients because although the food bank supplies whatever it can, it often doesn't have the funds to buy much in the way of major protein products like meat and fish. It will be a real treat for everyone — I know because I have enjoyed the 'all you can eat' baby back rib special in the Country Kitchen at the Paddlewheel several times."

Paddlewheel Hotel & Casino Helps Local Charities With Fund-Raising

The Paddlewheel Hotel & Casino instituted a special policy for the months of January and February to help a variety of charity organizations raise their coffers.

During those months, the Paddlewheel offered up to 75 tickets per non-profit organization for Norbert Aleman's "Hot Lips" Revue. There was no cost to the charity for them, however, if they chose, they were able to sell them for whatever tax-deductible price they wanted and were able to keep 100 percent of the profits. It was also each charitable organization's option to just give the tickets to volunteers as a thank you for all the hours of hard work they had donated.

Some of the non-profit groups in Las Vegas that took advantage of the donation included: Muscular Dystrophy Association, Parents Without Partners, Opportunity Village and Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN), among others.

AFAN is a member agency of United Way and for the most part, counts on private donations and some grants to keep their doors open. Food for the Food Bank is purchased regularly by volunteers from area supermarkets and some items are purchased at the Community Food Bank. Volunteers of AFAN along with clients trying to help themselves, have also held several Food Bank Drives at some of the local bars. "These food drives," says Grable, "usually bring in a lot of canned goods and some paper products, but unfortunately, never meat and like commodities."

Grable notes, "All of the clients at AFAN are either living on social security benefits which nets them between \$340 and \$581 per month, or are in the process of getting through the red tape and paperwork to receive these benefits.

"During the transition period between working and social security, clients can apply for and receive \$224 a month from General Assistance, however, this money has to be paid back and is deducted from the first social security check.

"It's not easy to pay rent, buy food and take care of other financial obligations as well as maintain the quality of life on this amount of money. Most of us, when we were working, made a lot more. Some of the clients also receive food stamps, but again, this is a very limited amount of money."

The Paddlewheel Hotel & Casino has also agreed to supply five complete meals per week to the AFAN Mobile Meals Program as soon as AFAN volunteers are able to implement the program which requires a weekly drop of containers for the meals to the hotel; picking up the frozen, microwavable dinners; and distributing them to clients at their homes unable to get out due to the devastating effects of the disease.

Pictured are Rick Becker (L), director of marketing for the Paddlewheel Hotel & Casino, making the food donation of shrimp and ribs to Brian Grable (R), AFAN Food Bank founder and administrator.

Julio To Preview New English Album In Caesars Shows March 9 - 14



Julio Eglesias will tip off the promotional tour for his new English album with a March 9 - 11 engagement at Caesars Palace.

Iglesias, whose albums and singles have broken sales records worldwide, has been a virtual musical ambassador, recording songs in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, English, French, German and Japanese.

His first English album, "1100 Bel Air Place," was a multi-million seller in its own right. Its hit single "To All the Girls I've Loved Before," a duet with Willie Nelson, crossed over from country, to adult contemporary to pop charts, introducing Julio to American ears in a big way and expand-Nelson's worldwide audience.

The Caesars engagement in March precedes weeks of scheduled U.S. television appearances promotion the album. Then, the Latin star travels to the Far East and Australia for appearances scheduled to climax with a pre-Olympic concert in Seoul. He'll be back in North America for a May date at Caesars Atlantic City and a U.S. tour which includes Radio City Music Hall, varied venues along the Eastern coast, the Greek Theater and a July 4 show at Jones Beach. Beginning in mid-July, Julio has a two-month performance tour in Europe, returning to Caesars Palace September 14.

Details about the new English album haven't been released, pending its availability for public sale, expected this April. One cut is a duet with Stevie Wonder, titled "My Love." Written by Wonder, the song was composed for a charity fundraiser which involved both performers.

Onstate at Caesars Palace, Julio Iglesias performs nightly in cocktail shows at 10, except Friday and Saturday, when shows are scheduled at 8:30 and 11:30. For reservations phone the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom 800/445-4544 or 702/731-7333__

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