



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***Retirement Comes Early For This Blessed Scratchers® Player***

#### *A Triple Red 777 Moves a Planned Timeline Ahead a Couple Years*

**SACRAMENTO** – On a fine Saturday in February, sitting with a friend sharing the day, **Julie Bass** had a few Scratchers games to play. It was her 25<sup>th</sup> work anniversary, and she was sharing some supportive words with her neighbor and, for a moment, not winning.

“I had scratched my five-dollar ones, and I told her ‘I’m not winning!’” Julie laughed. “She says, ‘Oh Miss Julie, you have two more back there.’”

At first, after she uncovered her winning match, she thought she’d simply won a free ticket. Then she looked again and thought she’d won \$1,000.

“Look at that!” said her neighbor. “Girl, you hit the jackpot!”

It was true. The *Triple Red 777* Scratchers Julie had purchased that day from the Golden Moon convenience store at 1617 E. Anaheim Street in Long Beach was actually worth \$1,000,000!

Her Scratchers prize meant that instead of waiting two more years to retire, as she’d planned, she’s retiring immediately.

“I started my job as a clerk, and now that I’m a manager, I felt my reward was my seven promotions. But He showed me that day, ‘no, I got something else for you.’ And that was that million dollars,” laughed Julie, drawing on her faith to explain the big win. “He said, ‘go ahead and leave.’”

Julie doesn’t feel like a lucky person. “I feel like I’m an especially blessed person,” she says.

Now she will retire and buy a house near her only daughter, earlier than she’d always planned, but perhaps right on time by another measure.



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When asked how she felt about the mission of the California Lottery and providing extra money to public schools, she exclaimed loudly, “Well, we voted it in all those years ago,” making it clear she was an early supporter of the California Lottery mission.

## ***California Public Education Is the Reason***

Established by voters through Proposition 37 in 1984, the California Lottery offered its first Scratchers game on October 3, 1985. From the beginning and by statute, California Lottery funds are available for instructional use. Schools all across the state have used the extra money to [improve athletics programs](#), [support arts programs](#), [support career-focused programs](#), and [even train firefighters](#).

Now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, players have helped raise more than \$46 billion for public schools in California. An interactive map and the latest financial reports are available on the California Lottery website at [calottery.com/who-benefits](http://calottery.com/who-benefits). Those interested can use the map and reports to see specific funding by school district and school.

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The mission of the California Lottery is to raise additional funding for public education, helping to supplement school budgets for K-12 as well as colleges and universities. **The California Lottery has raised more than \$46 billion for public schools** through the responsible sale of its games since 1985. Lottery funding for schools is largely discretionary, so administrators and educators can use Lottery money for instructional programs and services they may not otherwise afford. The California Lottery features eight [draw games](#) and dozens of new instant [Scratchers](#) games each year. More than 95% of California Lottery sales revenue goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, [retailer commissions and bonuses](#), and contributions to education. More information about who benefits can be found [here](#). California Lottery is also committed to promoting [responsible gaming](#). Anyone who shows signs of a gambling problem, or knows someone who does, can get free, confidential help by calling the CA Problem Gambling Hotline at 1-800-GAMBLER.



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