



For Immediate Release

Grand Island Casino Resort and The Friendship House Counseling Clinic Create Partnership to Provide Training to Employees on Recognizing the Signs of Problem Gambling

(Grand Island, NE) – [Grand Island Casino Resort](#) has partnered with The Friendship House Counseling Clinic (FHCC) to provide training to all employees of Grand Island Casino Resort on Responsible Gaming and the signs of problem gaming.

Vince Fiala, General Manager of Grand Island Casino Resort said, “We recognize the excitement and anticipation for a Casino opening in Grand Island. Providing responsible gaming training for our employees helps mitigate the effects of problem gaming. These training programs are key to a responsible and successful gaming industry and we are thankful to have the resources of Friendship House Counseling Clinic to provide our employees with this very important training.”

Fiala added, “We encourage everyone to learn the signs of problem gambling and use the voluntary self-exclusion program if you or someone you know has an addiction.”

The Friendship House Counseling Clinic (FHCC) therapists have been trained to provide gambling addiction therapy thru a partnership with the Nebraska Gamblers Assistance Program and Bellevue University. FHCC offers counseling services in both English and Spanish to those with mental health needs as well as addictions, including gambling addictions.

FHCC begins the training for all employees on Thursday, December 15 at Noon and 2 PM., prior to Grand Island Casino opening for business. Ongoing employee training will continue throughout the year and as new employees are hired in the future.

“We are excited to partner with Grand Island Casino Resort to provide services for those experiencing problem gambling” said Tara Lesiak, Executive Director of The Friendship House. “If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, visit problemgambling.nebraska.gov or contact the Friendship House Counseling Clinic at (308) 675-3345 or visit our website www.thefriendshiphouse.net.”

The Nebraska Self-Exclusion Program was established to provide support resources and a way for those who wish to refrain from gambling activities to notify the Nebraska Racing & Gaming Commission that they wish to ban themselves from engaging in gambling activities offered by authorized Casinos in Nebraska. Each person seeking placement in the Self-Exclusion Program acknowledges that it is their responsibility to refrain from engaging in gambling activities under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

As part of the request for self-exclusion, the individual must select the duration that they wish to be excluded. An individual may select any of the following time periods as a minimum length of exclusion: One (1) year; Three (3) years; Five (5) years; or Lifetime (an individual may only select the lifetime duration if their name has previously appeared on the Self-Exclusion List for at least six (6) months).

The State of Nebraska has a 24-hour helpline in place to help those in need. Individuals can reach out by calling 1-833-BETOVER (238-6837).

In addition to problem gaming and part of Elite Casino Resorts comprehensive employee training program, Grand Island Casino Resort employees are also being trained on Human Trafficking Awareness, TIPS Alcohol Certification, CPR, First Aid and use of an AED, Guest Service Training, Safety & Emergency Procedures Training, HAZMAT, and Bloodborne Pathogens training.

About Grand Island Casino Resort

[Grand Island Casino Resort](#), an [Elite Casino Resorts](#) property, is located conveniently off I-80 at [Fonner Park](#) and will serve customers from all over the Midwest region. A temporary casino facility opens first offering friendly service and 300 slot machines. Construction of the full resort is scheduled to start in fall of 2023 and will feature a 24-hour Vegas-inspired casino experience with sports wagering, a 116-room hotel, first-class spa, a variety of dining options including top floor dining at Ruthie's Steak & Seafood, and live weekend entertainment. Visit us at 700 E Stolley Park Rd., Grand Island, NE.

About Elite Casino Resorts

[Elite Casino Resorts](#) is a leading regional gaming operator in the Midwest and a private owned U.S. company known for operating premier casino resort destinations, first class guest service and amenities, great entertainment, exceptional food, and giving back to its communities. Elite Casino Resorts operates three casino resorts in Iowa including [Riverside Casino & Golf Resort](#)[®], located just south of Iowa City, IA; [Rhythm City Casino Resort](#)[®] located in the Quad Cities Davenport, IA; and [Grand Falls Casino & Golf Resort](#)[®] located in Larchwood, IA just minutes from Sioux Falls, SD. Elite is developing two new resorts: [Walker's Bluff Casino Resort](#) in Carterville, Illinois and [Grand Island Casino Resort](#) in Grand Island, Nebraska. Elite Casino Resorts, LLC. In addition to casinos, Elite Casino Resorts, LLC operates [ELITE Sportsbook](#) with retail and online operations in Iowa and Colorado.

About The Friendship House Counseling Clinic

The Friendship House Counseling Clinic was launched in July of 2017 in response to the growing need for high-quality bilingual services within our diverse community of Hall County and across the state of Nebraska. Friendship House employs five counselors, three fluent in Spanish, allowing for a better use of time and resources and resulting in better outcomes for the people we are privileged to serve.

Media Contact – Grand Island Casino Resort

Vince Fiala, General Manager, 712.777.7777
vince.fiala@grandislandresort.com

Media Contact – Friendship House

Tara Lesiak, Executive Director, The Friendship House, 308.675-3345 ext. 18
tlesiak@thefriendshiphouse.net