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You know playing bingo is fun, but did you know
it's also good for your health?

Research shows that fast-paced games stimulate
the brain, keeping us happier and
healthier as we age.

Bingo is also good for California communities.

Bingo revenues support hundreds of important
charities that help students succeed in school, feed
desperate families and provide critical assistance to
veterans and the disabled.

So do something good for yourself
and others while having fun!

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*CCBA is a non-profit organization representing community-based charities,
dedicated volunteers and vendors. CCBA is dedicated to the preservation and
promotion of all forms of bingo, including traditional paper, handset machines
and electronic games.*

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Bingo Games Help Struggling School Programs Survive

By Joe Gomez, President CCBA

Special to the Bingo Bugle

As California students return to school this month, they're finding fewer teachers on campus, overcrowded classrooms, outdated textbooks, and extracurricular activities devastated by unprecedented state budget cuts. But thanks to charity bingo games, thousands of students will still have access to important academic, athletic and character building programs.

Charity bingo games provide millions of dollars to California school programs every year, helping fund everything from championship athletic programs and award-winning marching bands to sober grad night celebrations. Across the state, bingo players are helping important school programs survive, giving students an opportunity to engage in meaningful, productive activities.

In the desert town of Hesperia, bingo revenues will help students at the new Oak Hills High School gain access to top notch sporting programs this year – programs that might otherwise be canceled during California's budget crisis.

"It's been a tremendous help for us," said head track and field coach Robert Metzger. "Being a new school, there is no money in our accounts. We're very thankful for the charity bingo. Without bingo money, it would be nearly impossible for us to launch a successful sports program," Metzger said.

For many cash strapped school dis-

tricts, charity bingo funding has become a life-saving safety net for programs on the budget chopping block. In Sacramento County, charity bingo revenues fund dozens of school-based programs. At El Camino High School, the Booster Club uses charity bingo revenues to pay for sporting equipment, safety gear, uniforms, coaches and even field repairs. The money helps worthwhile programs thrive when similar activities are being eliminated in competing school districts.

"Bingo revenues used to buy extras, but now they buy essentials," said El Camino Booster Club President Topo Padilla. "We're talking about basics that most families once took for granted, like football pads and wrestling mats, the equipment needed to protect students from potentially devastating injuries," Padilla said.

Considering the current economy, charity bingo revenues are needed now more than ever. Bingo money is becoming essential to campus life. Whether it's used to subsidize academic competitions or help marching bands replace worn-out instruments, bingo is making a remarkable contribution to communities across California.

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