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**POKER TOURNAMENT NETS \$70K FOR CHARITY**  
*Shawn Marion Celebrity Poker Tournament Gives To Single Parent Families*

**DURANT, OK (August 23, 2010)**— The Shawn Marion Celebrity Poker Tournament held at Choctaw Casino Resort on Saturday, August 14, raised almost \$70,000 for the [Shawn Marion Foundation](#) to continue in its mission to provide life-changing opportunities and experiences to single parent families.

“We appreciate Choctaw’s hospitality and support in our mission,” said Shawn Marion. “We had a successful event that will help provide scholarships for single parents who may not otherwise get the chance to earn a degree.”

The No-Limit Texas Hold-em tournament drew a crowd of 181 poker players including professional T.J. Cloutier and Annie Duke, TV reality stars and poker professionals Tiffany Michelle and Maria Ho, Dallas Mavericks Forward Shawn Marion and Dallas Mavericks Owner Mark Cuban.

First place winner James Dean walked away with a seat in the 2011 World Series of Poker Main Event compliments of [Ultimate Bet](#). William Richerson came in second and will enjoy a two-night (2 night) stay at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani (in Waikiki Beach) Hawaii that was donated by [Pleasant Holidays](#). Third place went to Jarett Davis who received a seat in the upcoming T.J. Cloutier/Choctaw Poker Classic. Brandy Adrian was awarded a watch for coming in fourth and Tommy Kitchens scored two tickets to a Mavericks game and dinner with Shawn Marion for his fifth place finish.

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Ultimate Bet, one of the largest online poker communities in the world, also donated eight buy-ins to their Sunday \$200,000 tournament for those who placed second through ninth.

The Shawn Marion Foundation was established by [Dallas Mavericks](#) Forward Shawn Marion and will receive 100% of the tournament proceeds. The funds will be used to continue the organization's mission to provide life-changing opportunities and experiences to single parent families.

In February of this year, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma celebrated the grand opening of the new \$300 million Choctaw Casino Resort located in Durant, Oklahoma. Billed as Oklahoma's newest premium destination, the Choctaw Casino Resort offers guests 110,000 square feet of gaming space which houses about 3,000 slot machines and 38 table games including Blackjack, Three Card Poker, Let It Ride, Ultimate Texas Hold'em, Pai Gow Poker, Mini Baccarat and Roulette.

If it's not gaming guests are after, the 204,000 square feet of hospitality space provides a relaxing experience with 330 hotel rooms, an indoor/outdoor pool, fitness center and spa. The Choctaw Casino Resort also offers multiple dining experiences, from a four-venue food court to a 400-seat buffet and three other sit-down options.

For more information on the Shawn Marion Celebrity Poker Tournament or the Choctaw Casino Resort, visit their [www.choctawcasinos.com](http://www.choctawcasinos.com).

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### **About Choctaw Casino Resort - Durant**

The new Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Oklahoma, includes 330 hotel rooms, a natatorium, fitness center, business center, full-service spa and three retail outlets. In addition, there is a 175-seat amphitheater, five restaurants and 110,000 square feet of gaming space, including 3,000 slot machines, 30 poker tables and 38 table games. For more information, visit [www.choctawcasinos.com](http://www.choctawcasinos.com).

Like all Choctaw Casinos, the new Choctaw Casino Resort helps fund necessary services such as health care, educational programs, housing and many other social services for Native Americans. Choctaw Casinos and the Choctaw Nation continue to be a vital part of area communities by providing jobs to both Indians and non-Indians, helping build roads, assisting local schools, and donating thousands of dollars to community-based programs, charities and fundraisers.