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## **YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED**

*Steamboat Grand Director of Owner Relations takes YPN inaugural award*

**Steamboat Springs, CO** – Stacy Huffman, director of homeowner relations at the Steamboat Grand, has been selected as the 2009 Young Professional of the Year from the Young Professionals Network of Steamboat Springs (YPN). Huffman will receive the inaugural award during the 2009 Navigator Awards Ceremony on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Ghost Ranch Saloon.

Huffman joined the Young Professional's Network when the organization was first introduced to the community in the spring of 2009. Since then, she has been an active member serving on the Fresh Air committee and attending nearly all events and meetings hosted by the organization. Stacy was recently selected as the Vice Chair for the newly appointed Young Professionals Network board and will serve her year long term in 2010.

“Stacy has been such an integral part of YPN since the beginning and is a shining example of what a YPN member looks like,” says Molly Killien, public relations manager for the Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association (SSCRA) and YPN member who nominated Huffman. “Her enthusiasm and hard work has helped develop our organization to what it is today. We are thrilled to honor her contributions and dedication this year with the first Young Professional of the Year Award and look forward to her continued involvement on the board next year.”

Huffman moved to Steamboat in 2005 after being recruited by Ski Corp. to work the front desk at the Steamboat Grand. Her previous experience working as a Front Desk Supervisor at a lodge in Yellowstone National Park made her the ideal candidate for the Grand. In early 2007, she was promoted to Director of Owner Relations and since then has been responsible for more than 900 homeowners. She is continually praised for her excellent customer service and dedication to the homeowners to make the most of their benefits.

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“I am very excited about being recognized as the Young Professional of the Year,” says Huffman. “I appreciate everyone who contributed to help make YPN a success this year and I look forward to honoring young professionals in our community for many years to come.”

The Young Professional of Year was created to recognize a member of YPN for their continued dedication to the organization. The Young Professional of the Year represents leadership, hard work, an outstanding attitude and helps grow the organization through participation, volunteering and representing YPN to help recruit members. All YPN members received a nomination form and four members were nominated for the first year award. Selection was based on the nominees’ involvement in community projects and YPN, positive support of the business community, progressive management philosophy, support of fellow young professionals and commitment to the organization. The final selection was determined by the Chamber’s YPN Committee of 5 members.

The Young Professionals Network of Steamboat Springs is a community development program committed to cultivating young professionals by providing an outlet to build partnerships through a variety of opportunities. The organization began in April of 2009 and currently includes 118 members representing 80 businesses and organizations in the Yampa Valley.

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