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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PHILANTHROPISTS HONORED BY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR “GIVING BACK” TO JUNEAU**

Juneau, Alaska - The Juneau Community Foundation issued its first philanthropy awards at a gala donor recognition dinner at the Baranof Hotel on March 19, 2009. Part-time Juneau resident Simone Machamer was given the “Individual Philanthropist of the Year” award for her grants in 2008 to nearly three dozen nonprofit groups locally and statewide totaling over \$70,000. The “Business Philanthropist of the Year” award went to the local branch of Wells Fargo bank for their \$50,000 donation to the Dimond Park Field House, which allowed for lower fees for use of the facility as well as for creation of a maintenance reserve.

Six other special philanthropy awards were given to local residents and businesses for their support of charitable activities in Juneau:

**Dr. Henry Akiyama** for establishing a large endowment for the Grace Akiyama Alaska Youth Choir Scholarship;

**Paul Douglas** of the Douglas Dornan Foundation for start-up funding to the Youth Action Committee, which is a program of the community foundation that consists of a group of high school students that raise money and disburse grants to organizations that work on youth-related issues;

**George Elgee** of Elgee Rehfeld Mertz, for providing pro bono accounting services for managing the funds of the community foundation;

**Mary Claire Harris**, for a generous gift creating the Arts and Humanities Student Scholarship Fund endowment;

**Foundation for End of Life Care**, for creating the first endowment fund at the community foundation as well as supplying it with an initial grant for operating support; and to

**Reed Stoops**, for his visionary work as co-founder and board President of the Juneau Community Foundation.

The Juneau Community Foundation was established in 2005 with a mission to promote philanthropy and effectively respond to the needs of our community. With nearly 20 funds under its management, the foundation awarded over \$100,000 in grants to local charities in 2008. For an explanation of how to establish donor-advised funds, organizational endowments, and other types of vehicles for charitable giving, view the foundation's 2008 Annual Report at [www.juneaucf.org](http://www.juneaucf.org) or visit us at 350 N. Franklin Street. Ken Leghorn, Executive Director, can be reached at (907) 523-5450 and Reed Stoops, President, can be reached at (907) 463-3223.

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Photos: Courtesy of Andrea Watts



Simone Machamer, Individual Philanthropist of the Year



Left to right: Ken Leghorn, JCF Executive Director; Simone Machamer, Individual Philanthropist of the Year; Reed Stoops, JCF President



Left to right: Ken Leghorn, JCF Executive Director; Karen West, Wells Fargo Vice President



Left to right: Ken Leghorn, JCF Executive Director; Karen West, Wells Fargo Vice President; Ivy Jackson, Wells Fargo Business Associate; Reed Stoops, JCF President.