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April 29, 2010

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## **Sacramento Hotel Association Honored with a People Helping People Award for Community Service**

Sacramento, CA – On April 22, 10 businesses and individuals were honored with the Community Services Planning Council's People Helping People Awards. The awards recognize excellence in community service and were presented before an audience of 500 business and community leaders at the 22nd Annual People Helping People Awards Luncheon at the Radisson Hotel. The honorees were selected from a field of 68 nominees.

In the Civic Organization/Association category, the **Sacramento Hotel Association** was recognized for coordinating an annual service project—The Hospitality Industry Helping in the Community—to benefit local neighborhoods.

At the Association's 2009 project on October 3, more than 200 employees of Sacramento's hospitality industry offered a day of improvements, donations and community pride to the South Natomas Community Center and Park, the Community Garden Program, Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center, and several other venues in the South Natomas area. Volunteers completed a variety of outdoor and indoor tasks for this service project, including landscape cleanup, gardening, painting, and the sorting of donated books and clothing. "We had 13 member hotels participate in the event, as well as four vendor members, including Allied Waste, SMUD, Yellow Cab Company of Sacramento, and the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau," said Teresa Stephenson, executive director of the Sacramento Hotel Association.

The 2008 community service project took place in North Sacramento, with service projects at the Hagginwood Community Center and Park, Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center, the Higher Learning Academy, the Caring Neighborhoods Program, the Community Garden Program and Twin Rivers Unified School District.

In 2007, Sacramento Hotel Association member hotels and vendors and their employees partnered with Hands On Sacramento, the City of Sacramento, and the Southside Park Neighborhood Association for a community park revitalization project.

For each annual project, the Association works closely with the City of Sacramento's volunteer coordinator to identify projects.

"Despite the economic downturn, businesses and individuals are contributing their time and talents to community service projects more than ever," said Nancy Findeisen, president & CEO of the Community Services Planning Council. "The nominees this year were particularly impressive in the innovative ways they found to give back and each demonstrated the power of volunteerism to transform people and communities."

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### **About the Sacramento Hotel Association**

The mission of the Sacramento Hotel Association is to provide the environment within which those engaged in the lodging industry in the Sacramento region may obtain educational, informational, and networking experiences, to actively advocate the association's position on issues, and to foster local government and community recognition of the industry as an important segment of the regional economy.

### **About the People Helping People Awards**

The People Helping People Awards have been presented by the Community Services Planning Council since 1989. The awards honor businesses, civic organizations and individuals for exceptional community service. The awards luncheon is held annually during National Volunteer Week and serves to promote volunteerism and service in the Sacramento Region. Proceeds from the awards luncheon support two CSPC programs: Hands On Sacramento, a program that inspires and empowers people to change lives and the community through meaningful volunteer action, and 2-1-1 Sacramento, a free, confidential 24/7 information and referral service, helping people every day of the year find the resources and services they need for themselves and their families.

### **About the Community Services Planning Council**

Founded in 1939, the Community Services Planning Council (CSPC) helps people turn ideas into community action through information, planning, civic engagement and advocacy for human needs in the Sacramento Region. CSPC is a multi-service, community-based organization that provides health and human services information for the public, conducts research and policy analysis on health and social issues, and mobilizes people to improve the health and welfare of individuals and communities. CSPC programs include: 2-1-1 Sacramento, Hands On Sacramento, a civic action center connecting volunteers with meaningful community service opportunities, the Research and Planning Center, and Shots for Tots KIDS immunization registry and coalition.