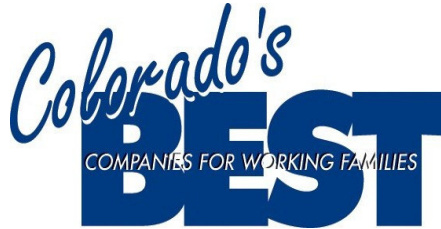


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## **Standard & Poor's, CHFA, JG Management Systems, Pinnacol Assurance win Top Awards**

Denver, CO --The results of the 2007 Colorado's Best Companies for Working Families were announced at an awards luncheon on September 14 at the Brown Palace Hotel. Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the program highlights innovative organizations that help employees manage a healthy balance between work and family.

From a group of more than 120 contending organizations a panel of judges chose the most family-friendly organizations from 4 categories: nonprofit, small (with less than 100 employees), medium (with 100 – 499 employees) and large (with 500 or more employees). Judging criteria included flexible work arrangements, childcare assistance and support, adoption benefits, extended leave for new parents, subsidized health and wellness benefits and community involvement.

The Brown Palace Hotel's ballroom was filled to capacity with more than 200 guests welcomed by a rousing brass herald and entertainment provided by the Denver Municipal Band and the Rocky Mountain Children's Choir. The ballroom resonated with excitement and suspense during the awards announcement which followed Roger Smith's keynote address, "Work Life Effectiveness in Action". Smith is Vice-President of Human Resources for the HCA Continental Division and HealthONE.

The winners (listed below) are leading the way in making Colorado a great place to work and raise a family.

### **Large Companies:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Standard & Poor's
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Citi
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Morrison & Foerster, LLC

### **Medium Companies:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Colorado Housing & Finance Authority (CHFA)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – St. Mary Land & Exploration Company
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Fresh Produce Sportswear, Inc.

### **Small Companies:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – JG Management Systems, Inc.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – InsureMe
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Work Options Group

### **Nonprofit Companies:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Pinnacol Assurance
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – The Children's Hospital
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)

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In his acceptance of the first place award for Standard & Poors, Mike Lam, Director of Human Resources commended *Colorado Parent* for producing the event, saying that it raises the bar in the Human Resources community and draws professionals together. He suggested that the value of the event is that it allows all companies to see what everyone else is doing and brings out the best in everyone.

In addition to the award luncheon, *Colorado Parent* introduced a Business Expo and a Panel Discussion. Feedback from panelists, expo vendors and guests was very positive.

Sponsors of the 2007 Colorado's Best Companies for Working Families include: HealthONE, Citi, OSI Pharmaceuticals, Sundyne Corporation, Sunflower Market and the *Employment Guide*. Circle of Distinction Members (those than have won in past year(s) and 2007 advisors to the program include: HealthONE (Charter Member), OSI Pharmaceuticals, North Highland, and Kaiser Permanente.

September 10, 2008 (no location confirmed) is the date for next year's Colorado's best Companies for Working Families.

**About *Colorado Parent*:** *Colorado Parent* is the leading metro area magazine for soon-to-be parents and families with children, delivering award winning editorial and local information both in print and online at [www.ColoradoParent.com](http://www.ColoradoParent.com) - which is part of the Parenthood.com family of sites.

*Colorado Parent* will present the results of Colorado's Best Companies for Working Families surveys in October's issue. Over 100,000 readers will learn about what benefits the finalists offer to help their employees balance work and family and see photos taken at the September 14 awards program.

###

1<sup>ST</sup>**JG MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, INC.**Grand Junction, [www.jgmsinc.com](http://www.jgmsinc.com)

Grand Junction-based JG Management Systems, Inc.'s philosophy is simple: "People, Product, Profits." The engineering and management consultant firm, which was founded just six years ago by former Department of Energy staffer Jerome Gonzales, early on took the tack of listening and responding to its employees' needs.

Three years ago it conducted a comprehensive survey and based on those recommendations implemented a suite of company-paid benefits. Chief among them was its 100 percent-paid medical, dental and vision insurance. The health-care package covers not only the firm's 34 employees but their family members and domestic partners as well. A healthy lifestyle is a priority for the company, which recently brought in an ergonomic consultant to evaluate and provide exercises and suggestions for improved work stations.

The multi-faceted company, which offers total solutions for facility planning and operations needs, also picks up the tab for short- and long-term disability and life insurance. Additionally, the consultancy provides flexible work arrangements, which nearly one-third of its employees take advantage of.

Giving back to the community is also a high priority. Employees are allowed to take up to 40 hours of paid time

**JGMS**

Technical Management Services

off a year to pursue volunteer work of their choice. The company itself strives to donate 5 percent of its net income to charitable causes. Among its greatest achievements thus far has been the funding of the Riverside Tutoring Center, which provides educational services in one of Grand Valley's oldest neighborhoods.

As company CEO Gonzales states, "Are profits important? Of course they are. But if you focus on profits above all else, you are building your business on a house of cards. If instead you build your foundation on quality people, quality products and an organizational culture that nurtures these, the natural output of this will be both financially and personally rewarding."

**FAMILY-FRIENDLY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Strong paid benefits including 100 percent for medical, dental and visual for employees and their families or domestic partners
- Flexible work schedule
- Employee assistance program
- 401(k) plan
- Personal Time Bank with 80 hours the first year

2<sup>ND</sup>**INSUREME**Englewood, [www.insureme.com](http://www.insureme.com)

At InsureMe, an insurance referral services company that links insurance agents and consumers nationwide, the little perks add up quickly to make an impressive family-friendly package. Such benefits include birthdays off, no working on Saturdays, monthly company-subsidized family outings like rafting trips or Rockies games, one paid day a quarter to volunteer, daily breakfasts, discounted gym membership, financial planning, and parenting and marriage workshops.

To nurture that culture, the Englewood-based company of 70 has a "social team" tasked with monthly outings, a "love team" that helps out in family emergencies, an I Serve program to encourage and support volunteerism and even a corporate Chaplain.

The extra perks are coupled with more traditional benefits including flex work arrangements, company ownership through an ESOP, subsidized life insurance and tuition reimbursement.

**FAMILY-FRIENDLY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Four weeks paid maternity; two weeks paid paternity
- Cafeteria plan with up to \$2,500 match for any combination of medical care, childcare and mass transit expenses.
- Company pays 85 percent of the cost of the health plan for employees and family members

3<sup>RD</sup>**WORK OPTIONS GROUP**Superior, [www.workoptionsgroup.com](http://www.workoptionsgroup.com)

As a benefit provider for other companies, Work Options Group tries to go above and beyond for its own 60 employees. The Superior-based company specializes in providing backup care, such as licensed home care agencies and child-care centers that employees can access for temporary care for children or an elderly parent. It offers 100 hours of emergency backup care annually to each of its employees.

Among its most popular programs is its "bring your baby to work" policy that allows parents to bring infants up to four months old to work with them. The company has an on-site nursery/napping area as well as a private area for lactation.

Full benefits – including unlimited information and referral for children, adults and pets; backup care; a monthly \$30 wellness rebate; 401(k); and flexible work arrangements – are offered to employees working more than 28 hours a week.

**FAMILY-FRIENDLY HIGHLIGHTS**

- 100 hours of emergency backup care annually
- Allows parents to bring infants to work
- \$30 monthly reimbursement for health and wellness