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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minnesota Jaycees Announces the 2009 Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans and Outstanding Young Farmer Honorees

BURNSVILLE, MN October 16, 2009— The Minnesota Jaycees proudly recognizes a select group of 13 young leaders with the **2009 Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans and Outstanding Young Farmers Awards**. The 13 honorees will be recognized at a special awards celebration held on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at the Hastings Country Club in Hastings, Minnesota.

“These 13 young Minnesotans are nurturing the civic fabric of their communities through leadership and service” said Jason Gadd, President of the Minnesota Jaycees. “This diverse and accomplished group demonstrates the core values of the Minnesota Jaycees which include developing leadership skills, entrepreneurship, advocacy for issues important for Minnesota, and service to their community.”

Started in 1950, the **Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans (TOYM)** program is Minnesota's only statewide recognition program for outstanding young leaders between the ages of 18-40 who have devoted themselves to improving their community. The program acknowledges the efforts and accomplishments of young professionals who have contributed to our state through their service, thought and influence, community involvement, or entrepreneurship. In the past 58 years, the program has recognized the leadership of more than 400 young Minnesotans. Past awardees have included young up-and-coming leaders Walter Mondale, Marlene Johnson, Dave Winfield, Tim Penny, Paul Douglas, Matt Blair, Wheelock Whitney, Joe Senser, and Martin Sabo.

2009 Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans Honorees:

Kristen Cici – The Advancement Company, Deckci Décor, Nonprofit SOS, Minneapolis
Jason DeRusha – WCCO-TV, Minneapolis
Norman L Jones, III – Winthrop Weinstine, P.A., Stillwater
Patrick R. Mastey – Patrick R. MASTEY, St. Cloud
Anita Patel – YWCA of Minneapolis, Minneapolis
Brian Peterson – Students Today, Leaders Forever, Minneapolis
Sara Piekarski – AmericInn Lodge & Suites, Fergus Falls
Ben Stowe – NLFX Professional, Bemidji
Jill Youse – International Breast Milk Project, Rochester
John E. Zaharia – Zaharia Family Funeral & Cremation Service, Truman

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Since 1954, the Minnesota Jaycees have been recognizing the importance of strong young leaders of the agricultural industry of our state. **2009 Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF)** honorees demonstrate leadership through contributions to the well-being of the community, conservation practices, and accomplishment in their agricultural career. The OYF honoree will be selected from three candidates after an interview and presentation also held on December 5, 2009.

“This is an important program recognizing the leadership of today’s young farmers,” said Trisha Hasbargen Reinwald, Executive Director of the Minnesota Jaycees. “The agriculture industry is vital to the state of Minnesota and these three candidates exhibit the positive impact young Minnesotans can have on this ever-changing industry and within their communities.”

2009 Outstanding Young Farmers Candidates

Ryan Feist – Wells, MN

Scott Poepping – Melrose, MN

Cristy Sathre – Adams, MN

About the Minnesota Jaycees

The Mission of the Minnesota Jaycees is to provide the opportunity for young individuals to develop the leadership skills, social responsibility, entrepreneurship and fellowship necessary to create positive change. The Minnesota Jaycees is a statewide organization consisting of 80 local chapters and 2,500 members. Our chapters are in rural, mid-sized, and urban communities and our membership is comprised of young people between the ages of 18-40.

For more information about the Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans or Outstanding Young Farmers programs, visit www.mnjaycees.org or contact Kristi Hamilton 612-518-3817 or kristi@mnjaycees.org

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