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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STAFFORD'S HOSPITALITY RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES

Petoskey, Michigan – Stafford's Hospitality kicked off its 50th year of business by recognizing long term employees.

Every few years, the employees of Stafford's Hospitality gather at Stafford's Bay View Inn to recognize individuals who have worked continuously for five or more years. This past Tuesday, January 25, 2011 approximately 120 people gathered to recognize 60 employees who have achieved these years of service. The current employees and their families were also joined by several past employees who previously worked 20 or more years are no longer work for the company. Individuals that were recognized include:

- Dorothy Ingram: Honored for her years of service and recent retirement from the company.
- Five Year Awards: Twenty individuals received pineapple pins to wear over their hearts. Individuals recognized include: Francis "Jack" Lehner, Mark Hofbauer, Josi Paulsen, Sean Brants, Chadwick Brown, Jeffrey Vaughan, Laura Vaughan, Brandon Gramzay, Kathleen Lightfoot, Maria Sargent, Lindsey Walker, Dann Hansen, Tom McNamara, Ashley Walters, Ellen Wimmer, Anna Baldori, Lawrence Denemy, Brenda Wright, Gerald Gramzay and Cindi Bassett.
- Ten Year Awards: Eighteen individuals received beautiful local artwork from Stafford's Gallery of Art and History. Individuals recognized include: Corey Ernst, Rusty Hughes, Derek Hofbauer, Debbie Norris, Angela Whitener, Dale Gustafson, Lucas Vanderzee, Jessica Owens, Brooke Maki, Jody Ewbank, Allison Clock, Toni Coonse, Michael Dixon, Carrie Beemon, Jeff Sprecksell, Gail Baldrige, Eric Craig and Brian Ewbank.
- Fifteen Year Awards: Four Individuals received silver pineapple pins. Individuals recognized include: Diane Dakins, Rick Thompson, Diana Potts and David Marvin.
- Twenty Year Awards: Four individuals received golden pineapple pins. Individuals recognized include: Mark Beer, Jennifer Donker, Philip "Dan" Farmer and John Still.
- Twenty-five Year Awards: Four individuals received golden pineapple pins with a special touch. Individuals recognized include: Barb Diermier, Duanne Rutterbush, Fred Hollerback and Dale Beatty.
- Thirty Year Award: Judy Honor received a personal award.

- Thirty-five Year Award: Five individuals received personal awards. Individuals recognized include: Butch Paulsen, Richard Marszalec, Ann Stark, Ruth McCullough and Bruce Bennington.
- Forty-one Year Award: Dudley and Darlene Marvin
- Fifty Year Award: Stafford and Janice Smith received an award from the employees of Stafford's Hospitality.

The Pineapple symbolizes generosity and is the international symbol of hospitality. According to legend, a sea captain who sailed among the Caribbean Islands would spear a pineapple outside his home to let friends know of his safe return and to invite him in to visit. Upon serving his exotic food and drink, he would share exciting tales of his long voyage. Nearly fifty years ago, the pineapple was incorporated into the logos of Stafford's Hospitality. This is the reason that the awards are 'largely based on pineapples' for the employees to wear with pride.

Guests of the party celebrated with a spectacular meal that finished with a Stafford's classic, the Stafford's Red Velvet Cupcake. The evening's festivities included several presentations, shared stories and discussions of the many families that have been part of the Stafford's History throughout the year. The event concluded with an emotional talk by Stafford and Janice Smith.

For more information contact David Marvin, Vice President or Becky Babcock, Marketing Coordinator at 231-758-3545.

Stafford's Hospitality operates five northern Michigan landmark properties: Stafford's Pier Restaurant in Harbor Springs, Stafford's Perry Hotel and Stafford's Bay View Inn in Petoskey, Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant in Charlevoix and Stafford's Gallery of Art and History in Petoskey. Stafford's Hospitality has been in business since 1961.

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