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## **Seattle Hotel Association Honors John and Deanna Oppenheimer for Contributions to the Community**

SEATTLE – Feb. 13, 2006 – John and Deanna Oppenheimer were honored by the Seattle Hotel Association Saturday, February 11, at the “Evening of Hope” Gala Dinner & Auction at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel in downtown Seattle.

Association officials say the event raised more than \$700,000 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the beneficiary of this year’s gala.

SHA – comprised of 48 hotels in Seattle – honored the Oppenheimers for their support of the group and its various community causes, including the Komen foundation.

SHA supports every charitable request it receives. Its biggest fundraising event is the “Evening of Hope” Gala Dinner & Auction, which has raised more than \$2 million for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and Northwest AIDS Foundation over the last eight years.

“These two individuals have the influence in our Seattle community to bring to our beneficiaries both financial and heartfelt support. John and Deanna do this as a part of who they are. They are built from good stock with morals in line with our community’s well being,” said SHA President Karl Kruger, managing director of The Edgewater.

During the gala the Oppenheimers received four cobalt blue goblets specially crafted for them by Seattle-area glass artist James Mongrain.

“It’s an incredible honor to be associated with the Seattle Hotel Association and the great work it does to benefit so many worthy causes, such as the Komen foundation,” said John Oppenheimer, CEO and president of Columbia Hospitality, and managing partner of The Seattle Group LLC, which is leading the team that is bringing the Four Seasons back to Seattle.

“I can say the hospitality industry in Seattle has never been stronger and more dynamic,” Oppenheimer says. “While working together to transform Seattle into a world-class, 24/7

city, we are also teaming up for such worthy causes as the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.”

Deanna Oppenheimer is CEO of UK Retail Banking at Barclays, one of the top 20 banks in the world. She is the first woman to hold the post. Previously, she held several key management positions at Washington Mutual, where she was instrumental in growing the company into the nation’s seventh largest financial institution.

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**About the Seattle Hotel Association**

The Seattle Hotel Association is comprised of 48 hotels in Seattle. It supports every charitable request it receives. Its biggest fundraising event is the Evening of Hope Gala Dinner & Auction, which has raised more than \$2 million for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Northwest AIDS Foundation.

**About Columbia Hospitality**

Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality manages 15 premier conference centers, meeting venues, inns, and resorts in the Pacific Northwest. CEO and President John Oppenheimer, formed the company in 1996 to open and operate Bell Harbor International Conference Center. Since then, Columbia Hospitality has become a major Pacific Northwest hospitality firm with 350 employees.