



# News Release

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**Contact:** Carol Andersen (206) 553-7315  
**Internet Address:** <http://www.sba.gov/wa>

## ***SBA Honors Guidant Financial Group, Inc. Jeremy Ames, President & David Nilssen, CEO 2007 Young Entrepreneurs of the Year***

**SEATTLE, WA** – Championing the success of small businesses, Guidant Financial Group was recognized today by the U.S. Small Business Administration, for their outstanding success and support of small business. SBA Champion Awards were presented at an evening reception on May 4, 2007 in Seattle, as part of the annual observance of *National Small Business Week*.

Guidant Financial Group’s co-owners, David Nilssen and Jeremy Ames, are two inspirational young entrepreneurs - both still under the age of 30 – with exceptional industry knowledge, vision, and drive. Nilssen already is a renowned educator within the investment community who has purchased millions of dollars in real estate and has helped initiate numerous businesses. Ames has co-founded several other local businesses, including an investment-focused real estate brokerage, an escrow company, and a haircutting franchise.

“Ames and Nilssen were winners at the state level but also prevailed at Region 10 competitions (WA, OR, ID, and AK) and went on to win the National title,” said SBA District Director Nancy Gilbertson. “Even with the demand of running a growing business, they still find time to actively volunteer for SCORE – Counselors to America’s Small Business.”

Together in 2003, Nilssen and Ames founded Guidant Financial Group to provide individuals and businesses with more options for their retirement investing. These two have astonished industry leaders with their track record in building Guidant. Guidant goes beyond “closing a sale”. They link clients with important counseling and training resources like SCORE and the SBDC to help them grow and expand their businesses. Guidant’s concierge team gives world class customer service, ensuring that all clients are well informed about the process and ownership of their newly transformed IRAs.

By surrounding themselves with a team of industry experts who mirrored their “can-do” attitude, Nilssen and Ames established a dynamic corporate atmosphere. These two young entrepreneurs are visionaries who lead with integrity and conviction, and challenge their employees at Guidant to do the same as they cater to the financial realities and retirement dreams of their clients. David Nilssen and Jeremy Ames embody the spirit of SBA’s Young Entrepreneur of the Year award by living the American Dream. They have built an award-winning business by spreading the wealth.

Selected from nomination packages submitted to SBA Seattle office in their communities, Jeremy Ames and David Nilssen are being recognized on the basis of having met the following criteria:

- Displayed evidence of success as measured by sales and profits.
- Demonstrated increased employment opportunities created by the nominee’s business.
- Developed innovative or creative business methods.
- Demonstrated entrepreneurial potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth.

*For more information about SBA’s programs for small businesses,  
Visit the SBA’s Web site at [www.sba.gov/wa](http://www.sba.gov/wa).*

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