



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ski Purgatory January 22 and Benefit Community Connections, Inc.**

### *Locals Benefit Day Lift Ticket Sales Help Local Non-Profit Organization*

DURANGO, Colo. – As part of its annual program, Durango Mountain Resort hosts four Locals Benefit Days with portions of the ticket sales benefiting local non-profit organizations. Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> is the next Locals Benefit Day, and the recipient is Community Connections, Inc. (CCI). With the recent storm dropping nearly a foot of snow and more in the forecast, this Sunday's Locals Day will be a great day for skiing and riding and benefits a valuable community organization.

Community Connections, Inc.'s mission is to provide opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities so they can lead healthy and fulfilling lives in our community. CCI serves more than 240 children, families and adults every year, providing 24/7 comprehensive services to people with developmental disabilities in southwest Colorado.

"Durango Mountain Resort is proud to partner with Community Connections, Inc., an important non-profit organization in our community," said Gary Derck, CEO of Durango Mountain Resort. "Locals Benefit Day is a great way to help local organizations that are making a difference in our community while having fun on the snow."

Discounted lift tickets will be sold by presenting a coupon on Jan. 22, 2012 and a portion of the proceeds will benefit CCI. Locals Benefit Day lift tickets are \$40 adults; \$32 students/seniors; and \$25 children with coupon. Locals Benefit Day lift ticket coupons are available on CCI's website, [www.cci-colorado.org](http://www.cci-colorado.org) and available in this week's Durango Telegraph and online at [www.durangotelegraph.com](http://www.durangotelegraph.com).

CCI also provides services to more than 70 children under the age of three with developmental delays or disabilities, and helps families access specialists for their children. Their Adult Services Department provides 110 adults with services ranging from vocational support to round-the-clock care. CCI will use the proceeds from Locals Benefit Day at their Durango-based day habilitation program, the Holly House. The funds will be used for work on the basement to keep it from flooding and growing mold, providing a better environment for the adults who participate in the program. The Holly House provides education and integration opportunities to more than 20 adults with developmental disabilities every week of the year.

Other Benefits Day recipients this year are: the Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence (Dec. 18, 2011); Durango Independent Film Festival (Feb. 12, 2012); and Durango Devo (Mar. 25, 2012). Since its inception in 1992, Durango Mountain Resort's Locals Benefit Days have generated more than \$250,000 for Durango-area charities. Past Benefit Day recipients include the Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence, Silverton Avalanche School, Mercy Health Foundation, Trails 2000, Riverhouse Children's Center Boys & Girls Club of La Plata County, Manna Soup Kitchen, Music in the Mountains' "Goes to School" program, La Plata Search and Rescue, the United Way, the FLC Community Concert Hall Fund, the La Plata County Historical Society, the La Plata County Humane Society, the San Juan Mountain Association, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of La Plata County, the Durango World Cup, Southwest Colorado Cares (9/11 Tragedy), the San Juan Mountain Association, the Durango Arts Center, Volunteers of America, the Durango Discovery Museum, the Durango Winter Sports Foundation, Durango Nature Studies and the American Red Cross.

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