

Attorney has been an angel to people seeking to adopt

EVERGREEN — Seth Grob became a lawyer to help people. He must be pretty good at it because he has an award that says he's an angel.

Last week in Washington, D.C., Grob received an Angels in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.



**Gary
Massaro**

Grob specializes in adoption law, representing families and domestic and foreign agencies.

"I've always had a passion for helping children," he said. "It's never been a chore."

That attitude was formed in high school in Bridgewater, N.J., when he volunteered at a hospital. He was frequently assigned to the children's ward, where his compassion was fanned. "I reached out and helped them," he said.

If there's a gene for volunteering, Grob inherited it. "I was raised to give back," he said.

His mom, Lila, was active at Grob's school, in the community



"As a human race, we have an obligation to make this world a better place for ourselves, our kids and our grandkids."

Seth Grob

and in politics. His dad, Gerald, was a history professor who brought stimulating conversation to the dinner table.

Through high school and college at Duke University, Grob led tours of the United States, acting as a guide to high school students.

"I tried to give them a full appreciation for what this country's all about, what the United States had to offer," he said.

"As a human race, we have an obligation to make this world a better place for ourselves, our kids and our grandkids," Grob said. "That plays into the practice that I have."

He has expanded his practice to include infertility casework — basically helping prospective parents to have children.

He took a year off while at Duke to study at the London School of Economics, where he met his future wife, Stephanie Villafuerte, an Aurora native.

Both graduated from the UCLA law school in 1991 and moved to Colorado, settling in Evergreen in

1992.

They have two daughters. Grob plays piano for their school choir and coaches one of the girl's basketball team.

He was a teenager when he saw a television report about the atrocious conditions in Romanian orphanages.

"I still have vivid recollections of the deplorable conditions that those children faced, including lack of any caregivers to nurture and provide for them," he said. "I recall seeing babies with bottles stuck in their mouths and left to feed on their own, stuck alone in their cribs."

That instilled in him the desire to make changes.

"It goes back to wanting to help people and figuring out the best route to be able to do that," he said. "As I was going through college, one of the best ways to help was by using the law to achieve that end."

When Gary Massaro listens, people talk.
massarog@RockyMountainNews.com