

## Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact Nancie Balun, 908.604.5995

### NKCC Ninth Annual Gala to Benefit Youth Home Safety Initiative March 2008

March 18, 2009, Basking Ridge, NJ.....“Come celebrate with us,” says Vic Amoruso, President of the National Kids Construction Club Board of Trustees. “Times are tough for everyone, so forget about it for one night, enjoy some laughter with comedian Tom McTiernan, the thrill of winning some exciting silent auction items, and feast on gourmet food and fabulous Viennese table at the beautiful Grand Summit Hotel in Summit on Saturday, March 7 for only \$50. And while you party with us, we will show you in a fun and informal way why our children are in a national crisis when it comes to knowing how to be safe and handy in the home.”

The NKCC Ninth Annual Benefit Gala will commence with a cocktail reception from 6 to 7:30 pm followed by an opening performance by student members of the Community Theatre Performing Arts Company in Morristown and then continuous music from 12-year-old DJ Matt of Wacky Wild Parties. The gala is to benefit the NKCC YouTube “Get Your Fix” youth home safety initiative and will pay tribute to four honorees for their commitment to taking an active, caring role in our youth in a variety of capacities.

**This year's award-winners are:**



(Left to right) Honoree Mike Brusky with Nancie Balun-Boughton and NKCC President Vic Amoruso

**Michael Alan Brusky**  
Eastern Contractor Services, Mine Hill, NJ  
President, Community Builders Association  
"Outstanding NKCC Volunteer Award"

Before serving as NKCC President, Mike Brusky, a Bridgewater resident, served as the club's Vice President, Secretary and Gala Chair. His entire career has been devoted to civic involvement through his children, his career and for the past seven years at the NKCC. His countless hours of volunteering, especially through his work with the NKCC silent auction committee, have helped raise thousands of dollars.



(Left to right) Honoree Jim Dunn with Nancie Balun-Boughton and Vic Amoruso

**James Dunn**  
Executive Vice President Sales & Marketing, Warshauer Electric, Tinton Falls, NJ  
"NKCC Outstanding Educator Award"

The creative force behind the YouTube “Get Your Fix” Youth Home Safety Initiative, Jim’s work sends him all over New Jersey educating the public and the trades about conserving energy through the latest green technologies and products for the home.



(Left to right) Honoree Robert Peluso with Nancie Balun-Boughton and Vic Amoruso

Robert Peluso  
Vice President, Capital One Bank, Morristown, NJ  
President, Parsippany Area Chamber of Commerce  
“NKCC Outstanding Business Leader”

Currently serving as NKCC Chairman of the Board and a past NKCC Executive Vice President, Robert’s loyal support and his many associations to other civic organizations, has allowed him to expand the club’s outreach to raise awareness to the need for youth home safety skills.



(Left to right) Honoree David Szott with Nancie Balun-Boughton and Vic Amoruso

David Szott  
New York Jets  
“NKCC Community Service Award”

Every year the NKCC looks outside the scope of its work to spotlight a local celebrity to bring “star power” to the NKCC. As a former offensive line coach and team chaplain for the New York Jets, Dave Szott knows how to help players of any age promote team sportsmanship. His volunteer work with the Morristown Wildcats Football Club is outstanding. His current position as Director of Player Development with the New York Jets to oversee a number of league mandated programs including Players Assistance, Continuing Education and Career Development, has lead the club to see that Dave has it within him to educate others about the importance of helping others.



(Left to right) Robert Hahn and Scholarship Recipient Brian Willis with Joe Balun and daughter Nancie

### Joseph F. Balun Scholarship Award

This year’s recipient of the scholarship will be announced at the gala.

“The NKCC was founded nine years ago by a son and his mom with no start-up money and only the support of those who would help in this national crisis,” explains Michael Borodinsky, NKCC Gala Chair. “I am proud to be a part of a club that cares about our children’s future. As we so clearly explain on our web site, our children are losing their interest in what we call ‘handyman skills.’ As a parent, I am concerned that our youth can be experts at the computer and video games and absolutely clueless at stopping the toilet from overflowing. Even if your son or daughter knows how to keep safe when in a home or building, what about all the others who don’t know? I am sure many parents are well aware of the many tragic fire, water, electrical and gas accidents that have occurred in dorms and homes when students get together. These problems often occur because today’s youth are not even aware of what they don’t know in order to stay safe! It’s time we parents help our youth become self-sufficient adults. I urge everyone to go to our web site and join the NKCC Youth Home Safety Movement today! Do we really want our nation’s youth to have no desire to learn these necessary skills?”

According to the club, research has shown that students are losing their desire to learn “life skills” from basic home repairs and tool identification to fire, water, gas and electric home safety. Sadly, schools are reducing or eliminating practical arts classes. Fewer practical arts teachers are available due to dwindling college programs. Parents don’t have the time.

Gerald J. Biuso, NKCC Honorary Chairman of the Board and National Director of the Land Improvement Contractors of America invite everyone to attend the gala, be a contributor to the club, nominate an educator or business person or simply help encourage our children to construct and build, whether it is a birdhouse, sidewalk, building, road, bridge or any other structure, real or imaginary. The NKCC can be reached at 908.604.5995, [nkcconline@optonline.net](mailto:nkcconline@optonline.net) or visit [www.nkcconline.org](http://www.nkcconline.org).