



WBNS-10TV LOCAL JEFFERSON AWARD WINNER IS RECOGNIZED ON NATIONAL STAGE

Kevin Brown receives National Jefferson Award for his work with underprivileged kids

Contact: Barb Geller
Communications Manager
614-280-6308/barb.geller@10tv.com

For Immediate Release – Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Columbus, Ohio – WBNS-10TV is pleased to announce that one of its local Jefferson Award winners was recognized Tuesday at a Gala Dinner in Washington D.C., as one of five recipients of a national Jefferson Award for community service. Kevin Brown, of Columbus, received a Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for his significant contributions on behalf of underprivileged children in central Ohio.

In April of this year, Brown was one of five winners in the local Jefferson Awards program, which is presented annually by 10TV, the Nationwide *On Your Side* Volunteer Network and *ThisWeek* newspapers. Brown was honored for changing the community by not only keeping at risk youth off the street, but encouraging them to accomplish big things in their lives. He was selected to travel to Washington this month to compete in the Onassis Awards.

“We are extremely proud that our local Jefferson Award winner is now a national winner of the Onassis Award,” said 10TV Director of Community Affairs Angela Pace. “Kevin Brown devoted the last several years of his life making sure at risk youth have hope, encouragement and a friend. ‘Coach’ Brown is more than deserving of national recognition.”

Pace described the scene on Tuesday at East Hall, Union Station in the nation’s capitol as Brown’s name was announced. “It was so touching,” she said. “His wife Roxanne was by his side, along with his two sons, Korey and Kyle. He made a humble and emotional acceptance speech and thanked WBNS-10TV in front of a national audience.”

Brown, the man who hundreds of central Ohio kids refer to as “Coach,” began his career as a custodian, but when he encountered a group of bored underprivileged children who were causing trouble in their neighborhood, his life took on a new direction. He decided he had to do something to change the situation and find a way to provide a safe place for these children to play and engage in educational and cultural opportunities. In 2002, he created an after school program for more than 100 kids from Kindergarten to eighth grade, as well as a summer program for more than 400 children in that same age group. During the academic year, the children receive tutoring after school and during the summer, they have access to art classes, gym, dance classes and voluntary bible study.

“In the beginning, you don’t think about receiving an award for this type of thing,” said Brown. “When dealing with the kids, I see myself through their eyes. Coming from poverty and a single-parent home, I can relate. It’s from my heart that I do it. This is my calling—to work with underprivileged kids and do what it takes to build relationships and partnerships with the community to see that kids are successful in life. Nobody can do this by themselves. I had a lot of help. But it takes someone with the drive and initiative to want to do something. I’m proud to be part of something like this. I didn’t expect it. I’m humbled.”

The Jefferson Awards are presented on both a national and local level. The national awards program was founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard to honor outstanding Americans for their public and community service. The local Jefferson Awards honor five central Ohio volunteers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to their community without expecting an award or recognition.

The Dispatch Broadcast Group includes WBNS-TV, WBNS-AM/FM, Ohio News Network and Radio Sound Network in Columbus, Ohio; WTHR-TV and WALV-LP in Indianapolis, Indiana; Dispatch Interactive Television in Columbus, Ohio and Indianapolis, Indiana.

###

Dispatch Broadcast Group