

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. George Korn and Joyce Korn, founders and owners of Safeway Training and Transportation Services, Inc., Newton Junction, are New Hampshire's Small Business Persons of the Year for 2009. The Korns will join the nation's top small businesses in Washington to compete for the honor of National Small Business Person of the Year during the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week celebration, May 17-23, 2009. The National Small Business Person of the Year and runners-up will be selected from among the 53 state small business winners, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam. More than 100 outstanding small business owners will be honored, reflecting a broad range of business products, services and innovations offered by our nation's entrepreneurs.

Safeway Training and Transportation Services, Inc., founded in 1989, is owned and operated by Dr. George Korn and Joyce Korn. Safeway provides three primary services: transportation, school bus driver training and consultation to transporters and school districts.

The company publishes a school bus driver manual for transportation of disabled students which is being used in 41 states and has led the preparation of the NH State Manual on School Bus Driving as well as the Massachusetts State Manual on School Bus Driving.

In 1990, the Korns were awarded a contract from the NH Department of Motor Vehicles. These funds were used to provide a training program available to all New Hampshire school bus drivers of buses transporting youth with disabilities students. Over 300 school bus drivers participated in the training courses and the project was considered a success by not only the NH Department of Motor Vehicles, but also by the Federal Highway Administration for the northeast. In 1991, Safeway received a second contract to develop an instructor's curriculum guide for drivers of all non-special education school buses in New Hampshire. This project produced a comprehensive education document that was again deemed to be highly successful.

Today, Safeway operates 180 vehicles and over 700 children are transported by Safeway each school day; services are provided throughout New Hampshire and include Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine.

Safeway is also a signatory to the disaster agreement with the NH Office of Emergency Management and responds to state and local communities to assist in emergency evacuation of all citizens, but specializes in emergency evacuation of mobility impaired individuals.

"The Korns are a classic New Hampshire small business success story," said SBA's New Hampshire District Director Witmer Jones. "You can't help but be impressed with what they've accomplished through hard work, ingenuity and commitment."

George and Joyce Korn started and grew their business with the help of SBA-guaranteed financing. Their first office building was financed with an SBA loan, and is a part of their operations today. In 2003, they purchased a service facility in Kingston, N.H. comprised of a 3600 square foot, 2 story steel building and 6 acres of land. Centrix Bank and SBA joined forces to finance this facility utilizing the SBA's 504 loan program.

Wayland Elwood, Vice President, Centrix Bank, nominated the Kornes for the SBA award and remarked: “George and Joyce exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit at its best. They have created a successful business that is a benefit to the community at large.”

“We are honored to receive this recognition and appreciate SBA’s help in achieving our goals,” the Kornes said in a joint statement. “Without SBA, many of our successes would not have been possible and our business would have been held to a much slower pace of development. SBA is an essential ingredient for the small businesses of this country.”

Dr. George Korn earned his Doctorate in Special Education from Boston University, his undergraduate degree from Keene State College and was awarded a Master of Education Degree from the University of Illinois in the area of Learning Disabilities. Dr. Korn has produced a book titled *The Effective Driver of Handicapped Children*.

Joyce Korn has worked in the field of transporting disabled children for over fifteen years. She is recognized as an accomplished trainer, having made many presentations in New England. Joyce Korn manages the day to day operations of Safeway’s transportation services which serves thirty-five school districts.

For more information visit: www.safewaytrans.com