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**NJSBDC at Bergen Community College is Ladder to Success for *Rescue Zone*,
A Fire Safety Activity Center for Children
Opening in Bergenfield on Oct. 7**

Hackensack, N.J. (Oct. 1, 2007) – There’s a firestorm of activity happening at the New Jersey Small Business Development Centers (NJSBDC) at Bergen Community College, with the Oct. 7 opening of *Rescue Zone*, a new venture that mixes fire safety with fun for children. Members of the press are invited to attend the *Rescue Zone*’s grand opening taking place at 1:30 p.m., at 161 Woodbine Street in Bergenfield.

“This is really a win, win situation,” says Vincent D’Elia, regional director of the NJSBDC in Bergen County. “Even though this is a for-profit business, *Rescue Zone* is really giving back to the community. If one life is saved because of this, then it’s all good. It does my heart good to see Ron and Ava Gangeri open up *Rescue Zone* after two years of working with them.”

At D’Elia’s recommendation, Ron Gangeri, owner of *Rescue Zone*, enrolled in a Self Employment Assistance Program sponsored by the the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and held at Bergen Community College. “I knew the 60 hours of entrepreneur training would be beneficial for Ron. He came out with a business model, then we worked to get the funding, and a site,” says D’Elia.

After working hand-in-hand with the NJSBDC at Bergen Community College for more than two years, *Rescue Zone* today houses a shiny red firetruck that will allow children to explore the world of fire safety tools. In addition, there are obstacle courses where children can learn how to escape a fire. The facility also houses a video room

where children can learn fire safety training, as well as a festive room for birthday parties.

The opening event will include local officials and many guests, who will enjoy various tours of the facility, refreshments, fire safety presentations, and an announcement of a free birthday party winner. (Participants in a survey completed on **Rescue Zone's** website were entered into a contest for a free birthday party at the facility). On a regular basis, **Rescue Zone** will offer class trips, summer camp visits, scouting programs, and birthday parties seven days a week.

“One of the main reasons that we’re up and operating is because of the **SBDC** and Vincent D’Elia. He has given us tons of assistance over the years. He has pointed us in the right direction, educated us about the pitfalls and things to avoid, and taught us how to accomplish things. I’ve benefited from Vincent D’Elia’s personal counseling, as well as many conferences that he’s held,” says Ron Gangeri. “I’m a 37-year firefighter in the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department, and my wife, Ava, is 22-year-educator in Bergen County. We always wanted to have a business of our own, and we were looking to merge our areas of expertise. Our motto is: Rescue Zone is where safety and fun come together for children. It’s our goal to install a life saving message in these children’s minds. My goal is to have family come back to me one day and say, ‘We’re alive because of what you taught our children.’”

The NJSBDC, a non-profit public-private partnership, provides comprehensive small business assistance services statewide to support small business growth.

Located on the campus of Bergen Community College, the NJSBDC helps aspiring entrepreneurs launch their businesses, as well as tenured companies “that have growing pains,” says D’Elia.

For more information on the NJSBDC, visit www.njsbdc.com or call the Center at Bergen Community College at 201-489-8670.