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**The Hope Chest Scholarship Foundation
Celebrates Its Fifth Annual Black Tie Gala**

(Morristown, NJ, October 10, 2008) – The Hope Chest Scholarship Foundation hosts its fifth annual Black Tie Gala and silent auction on Saturday, October 25, 7:00 p.m. to midnight, at the Hyatt Morristown, in Morristown, New Jersey.

The event will raise funds for scholarships to be awarded to minority, high school and college students who are residents of New Jersey and for the foundation's newly launched LTD Program™. An acronym for "leadership training and development," the LTD Program™ is designed to help develop and enhance Hope Chest scholars' professionalism and job-readiness skills. Specifically, through mentoring and workshops facilitated by seasoned business professionals and consultants, the LTD Program™ focuses on instruction to improve business writing skills, public speaking skills, general office decorum, and personal appearance and presentation.

At this year's Black Tie Gala, community philanthropists Kim and Curtis Artis will receive the foundation's Citizens of the Year Award, and The Codispoti Foundation will accept the Corporate Partner Award, each for their outstanding commitment to public service and the furtherance of higher education for economically disadvantaged individuals. Johnson & Johnson once again will participate as a Gold Sponsor of the event while Wakefern Food Corporation has agreed to be a Silver Sponsor. Jazz vocalist [Cynthia Holiday](#) will entertain guests during the champagne reception and serve as mistress of ceremonies of the dinner program.

"We are excited about celebrating our fifth Black Tie Gala," said Ken Edwards, chair of the Board of Directors of Hope Chest. "I have no doubt the gala will be equally as successful as our eighth annual Golf Classic, which we hosted on June 17 at Fiddler's Elbow and raised over \$120,000. Both events are enjoyable for all attendees and provide a great opportunity for our supporters to meet our impressive group of Hope Chest scholars."

For more information about the Black Tie Gala, call (973) 539-6767 or visit http://hope-chest.org/blacktie_08.asp.

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