



## Tribute Center Partnership

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum and the Tribute WTC Visitor Center are partnering to support remembrance and programming for visitors to the World Trade Center. "The opening of the 9/11 Memorial has brought thousands of visitors from around the world to visit the site and honor the victims," said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Chairman of the 9/11 Memorial. "This new partnership will allow us to preserve the memories of the victims and ensure that all who visit the Memorial and Museum are educated and informed about that unforgettable day."

The collaboration between the two organizations will enhance the visitor experience to the Memorial. Tribute WTC Visitor Center guides who were directly impacted by 9/11 will provide person-to-person tours at the Memorial, a program started by the September 11th Families' Association in 2005.

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## Visiting 9/11 Memorial

The 9/11 Memorial is a national tribute of remembrance and honor to the 2,983 people killed in the terror attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. In order to accommodate visitors while the Memorial is surrounded by ongoing construction on other World Trade Center projects, visitors must reserve advance passes for a specific date and time. Since opening to the general public on September 12, 2011, the Memorial has been visited by more than a quarter of a million people. Visitor passes are free and available through the Memorial's online reservation system, [www.911memorial.org](http://www.911memorial.org).

Family members have special access to the 9/11 Memorial through a separate entry and reservation system specifically for families. 9/11 family members can reserve visitor passes via email by sending the requested date, time and names of all people visiting to [familyvisits@911memorial.org](mailto:familyvisits@911memorial.org). Please include the name of your loved one as it appears on the Memorial along with your relationship. 9/11 family members' reservations made through this email will always be secured from a permanent allocation of passes set aside for families. Reservations may also be made by phone (212) 266-5201. 9/11 family members can also reserve visitor passes by calling this dedicated phone line from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily. Staff at this number will also provide assistance in planning a visit.

There is a separate reception area/entry point for 9/11 family members, located at 90 West Street. To locate the name of your loved one, visit <http://names.911memorial.org>. Please view this special site where you can see your loved one's name and its permanent location on the Memorial in advance of your visit.

For more information on family visits, go to [www.911memorial.org/911-family-member-visitor-passes](http://www.911memorial.org/911-family-member-visitor-passes)

## Discovery Education Teaches 9/11

How were the personal stories of Tribute Center docents shared in real time with over 50,000 students over the anniversary of 9/11? Through the collaborative relationship of Discovery Education and the Tribute Center, our docents telecommuted live into hundreds of classrooms and were viewed by tens of thousands of students across the country. In conjunction with the Discovery Channel series, "The Rising," Discovery Education produced a series of live programs with website resources for teachers.

The week of September 11th, programs were aired from schools in NYC, Shanksville, Arlington, and Newark. The NYC program, hosted by Paula Zahn, took place at the school, while the Newark program, hosted by director Danny Forster, was held at the American History High School. Both programs involved Tribute Center docents as panelists. Students were able to ask questions from the audience and online. Students from around the nation sent in fabulous comment cards about how 9/11 has impacted their lives.

Additionally, the Tribute Center's classroom resource kit, "September 11th Personal Stories of Transformation" is now available to teachers around the nation, on Discovery's website. "We are delighted to experience a huge increase in the use of our excellent educational online materials as a result of this exciting collaboration," said Wendy Aibel-Weiss, Director of Education for the Tribute Center.

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## RESOURCE CORNER

### Mental Health and Substance Abuse

1-800-LIFENET

Free & multilingual. Available 24/7. Mental health professionals help find mental health and substance abuse services.

<http://www.mhaofnyc.org>  
(click on LifeNet)

### American Psychological Assoc.

1-800-374-2723

Referrals on everything from managing traumatic stress to coping with terrorism

<http://locator.apa.org>

### Faithful Response

516-679-0080

Free, faith-based mental health programs for Long Island residents.

[www.faithfulresponse.org](http://www.faithfulresponse.org)

### Columbia University & NY State Psychiatric Institute

212-543-5367

Does the grief over the death of a loved one on September 11<sup>th</sup> still interfere with your life?

Free treatment for those eligible.

### Mount Sinai Consortium

1-888-702-0630

Medical monitoring for workers and volunteers.

[www.wtcexams.org](http://www.wtcexams.org)

### FDNY

212-570-1693

Service for all active and retired NYC firefighters and EMS workers.

### WTC Centers of Excellence

<http://www.nyc.gov>

### WTC Environmental Health Center

877-982-0107

## 9/11 Compensation Fund Reopens

On October 3, 2011, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) opened to provide compensation for individuals (or personal representatives of deceased individuals) who suffered physical harm, or were killed, as a result of the aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001, or the subsequent debris removal efforts. The VCF is now accepting claim applications online ([www.vcf.gov](http://www.vcf.gov)); hard-copy claim forms may be obtained by calling 1-855-885-1555. Claimants who currently suffer from a covered condition must file with the VCF by October 3, 2013; all others must file within 2 years from the date on which they know, or should have known, of the condition for which they seek compensation, until the VCF stops accepting claims in 2016. Any plaintiff in a pending 9/11 lawsuit must withdraw from that suit by January 2, 2012, in order to participate in the VCF.

Online filing begins with a registration process ([www.vcf.gov/register.html](http://www.vcf.gov/register.html)), followed by completion and submission of an Eligibility Form with supporting documentation ([www.vcf.gov](http://www.vcf.gov); [www.vcf.gov/docChecklist.html](http://www.vcf.gov/docChecklist.html)). Upon filing a substantially complete Eligibility Form, the claimant or Personal Representative (on behalf of the decedent's beneficiaries) waives all rights to sue for 9/11 related physical harm, with the exception of civil suits to recover collateral source obligations or against knowing participants in aircraft hijackings or terrorist acts.

If a claimant is deemed eligible, the VCF will evaluate the Compensation Form once it and all supporting documentation have been submitted. As long as the Eligibility Form is timely submitted, the Compensation Form may be filed at any time during the program. Eligibility and compensation are determined without a hearing. Claimants may elect a hearing on appeal to the Special Master from adverse decisions; all decisions on appeal are final.

In order to be eligible for compensation, a claimant must establish: (a) why, where, and when (dates + number of hours per day) the claimant was present at a 9/11 crash site ([www.vcf.gov/faq.html#eli2](http://www.vcf.gov/faq.html#eli2)) during the period from September 11, 2001, through May 30, 2002; (b) a physical injury or condition that is a result of the September 11th attacks or related debris removal; and (c) medical treatment within a reasonable time after discovery of that injury or condition. Proof of presence includes: (a) employer records confirming employment in rescue and recovery operations, clean-up, or transportation of debris and the employee's physical presence at a 9/11 crash site between September 11, 2001 and May 30, 2002; or (b) proof of residence in the area and of physical presence at the residence during the relevant time period; or (c) school or day care records

confirming enrollment or attendance during the relevant time period; or (d) other contemporaneous documentation of presence. Absent these official or "primary" forms of proof, the claimant must submit at least 2 affidavits or declarations attesting to presence, based on the witnesses' personal knowledge, which the VCF deems reliable.

Eligible "physical harm" consists of (a) traumatic physical injury from the attacks or debris removal; and/or (b) presumptively covered health conditions certified by the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program ([www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/wtc](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/wtc)) as WTC related conditions; claims that are solely for mental health conditions are not VCF-compensable. The Aerodigestive and Musculoskeletal Disorders, which are identified at [www.vcf.gov/faq.html#eli8](http://www.vcf.gov/faq.html#eli8), are the only presumptively covered, non-traumatic, conditions currently eligible for VCF compensation. Other conditions (including specific types of cancer) may be added to the list in the future, and previously filed claims may be amended to include newly certified conditions. Claimants treated for a certified condition by the WTC Health Program or predecessor programs (i.e., WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program and Environmental Health Center Community Program) may authorize the VCF to obtain the records documenting that condition directly from these programs; claimants treated elsewhere must prove that they have sustained a presumptively covered physical injury or condition through submission of certified contemporaneous medical records and VCF approved medical history forms signed by their treating physicians.

After eligibility is found, compensation will be calculated under the guidelines described at [www.vcf.gov/faq.html#ccm18](http://www.vcf.gov/faq.html#ccm18), et seq., based on proof of, among other things, (a) current or anticipated unreimbursed medical or other expenses; (b) current or anticipated lost earnings or replacement services (including tax returns for the 3 years preceding claimed decreased earnings capacity); and (c) collateral source compensation.

Congress has appropriated \$2.775 billion to cover all VCF awards and administrative costs, of which only \$875 million is available during the first 5 years of operations. Accordingly, only a portion of the VCF awards will be paid before October 3, 2016. If the remaining funds available after that date are insufficient to pay the awards in full, then pro rata reductions will be imposed.

Further information about the VCF may be found at [www.vcf.gov](http://www.vcf.gov) or by calling 1-855-885-1555. Updates will be posted on [www.911families.org](http://www.911families.org).

*This article was contributed by attorney Debra Brown Steinberg.*

## Daffodils Create Living Memorial



On October 23, Tribute Center volunteers planted 6,000 daffodil bulbs at New York's Living Memorial Park at the base of the Brooklyn Bridge. Volunteers planting ranged in age from 4 to 87 years old. Dina LaFond came to plant and said, "It is a beautiful autumn day and I am here planting bulbs to make this park a beautiful remembrance for my daughter Jeanette LaFond-Menichino and thousands of others who died on 9/11."

The Living Memorial Park is home to several trees from the World Trade Center plaza and an elm tree grown from a cutting of Oklahoma City's Survivor Tree given to survivors of the World Trade Center by survivors from the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Survivors of the attacks hold annual anniversary ceremonies in the park.

## Tribute Center Partnership (continued)

The Tribute WTC Visitor Center, which was opened in 2006 by its umbrella organization, the September 11th Families' Association, incorporates "Person to Person History" as a means of linking visitors who want to understand and appreciate these historic events with the 9/11 community. Before opening the Center, the Association started to give tours of the area surrounding the WTC site led by members of the 9/11 community— family members, survivors of the attacks, first responders, civilian volunteers, and lower Manhattan residents—all people who are able to share their personal experiences, connecting the past with the present.

The Tribute Center's volunteer guide program connects a wide variety of personal perspectives allowing people who visit to relate to 9/11. "Students, seniors, uniformed services, and people from other cultures and faiths from around the world are able to personally relate to how terrorism has affected our community," said September 11th Families' Association CEO and co-founder of the Tribute Center, Jennifer Adams. "We are looking forward to building a long-term partnership with the National September 11 Memorial & Museum to maintain the 9/11 community participation through the Tribute Center guide program."

"Our organization has a twin mission: to commemorate the victims of the attacks and to educate for a better future. This partnership supports both of these critically important objectives," 9/11 Memorial President and CEO Joe Daniels said. "Tribute's walking tours will connect our visitors directly to the 9/11 community, helping to preserve the history of what happened and the spirit of unity that has become the true legacy of 9/11."

Through the partnership, Tribute Center will share with the 9/11 Memorial Museum photographs collected by the Tribute Center that families have specifically agreed to share with the Museum. The Museum at the WTC will have a special memorial chamber including portraits of all of the nearly 3,000 victims, individual multi-media profiles, and a rotating selection of personal artifacts.

For nearly a decade, the Daffodil Project, a living memorial to the events of 9/11, has been a citywide effort to beautify every neighborhood by planting daffodils. Led by New Yorkers for Parks, and in cooperation with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, this annual volunteer project serves as a symbol of remembrance and an act of rebirth that engages New Yorkers in the revitalization of their communities. Judith Pucci, a resident of Lower Manhattan, said "I remember walking through my neighborhood in the spring following 9/11 and being surprised and delighted by all the daffodils that suddenly appeared. Now they've become a living remembrance, and I am going to plant daffodils in my neighborhood as a tribute to 9/11."

The project began when Dutch bulb supplier Hans van Waardenburg of B&K Flowerbulbs pledged to donate 500,000 daffodil bulbs to NYC as a sign of support following the attacks on 9/11. Each fall, New Yorkers for Parks distributes hundreds of thousands of daffodil bulbs to New Yorkers, one of the largest volunteer efforts in the history of NYC. To date, over 20,000 New Yorkers have participated. Since the project's inception, 4 million daffodils have been planted throughout the City. Due to the tremendous support and interest in this project, Mayor Bloomberg named the daffodil the official flower of New York City in 2007.



The Memorial exhibition is at the heart of the Memorial Museum.

The Tribute Center has also collected numerous oral histories, audio recordings of individuals telling their stories, as well as a gallery of photographs and mementos donated by families. "We are very appreciative that the Tribute Center has made available critical content – particularly portraits of some of the victims of 9/11 – that will enable the 9/11 Memorial Museum to more comprehensively document the history and pay tribute to those who perished," said Executive Vice President and 9/11 Memorial Museum Director Alice M. Greenwald.

"At the Tribute Center, we want people to leave having learned about the events of September 11, but also being motivated to make a change for the future," said Lee Ielpi, President of the Association and co-founder of the Tribute Center. "This collaboration is another opportunity for us to educate the community and the visitors to the Memorial about the atrocities of 9/11 and how visitors can share the story of 9/11 to educate friends and family."

To volunteer as a Tribute Center guide at the 9/11 Memorial, email [volunteer@tributewtc.org](mailto:volunteer@tributewtc.org)

**Kevin Williams Memorial Foundation  
Christmas Toy Fundraiser**

December 7, 2011  
New York, NY

The cost of admission is a new, unwrapped toy. Donated toys will be distributed to needy children, come from 6:00pm-10:00pm. E-mail kevinwilliamsfoundation@yahoo.com to supply a specific child's wish or to make a donation.

1003 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
212-319-4545

**Tournament of Heroes Basketball**

December 28-29, 2011  
Staten Island, NY

Game times will be 5:30pm and 7:30pm on both nights. A ceremony honoring the heroes of the tournament's title will take place prior to the 7:30pm game on Thursday.

Honoring Terrance Aiken  
FF Scott Davidson  
FF Thomas Hannafin

For more information or to volunteer,  
call 718-982-3166

**Louis Mariani Memorial  
Scholastics Chess Tournament**

December 10, 2011  
Syracuse NY

For an entry form, visit:  
[www.nychess.org/tournaments/  
CNYchessentryform11-12.pdf](http://www.nychess.org/tournaments/CNYchessentryform11-12.pdf)

For more details:  
[www.nychess.org/tournaments/  
cnyscholastic.html](http://www.nychess.org/tournaments/cnyscholastic.html)

Henninger High School  
600 Robinson St., Syracuse NY

**Donations in Memoriam**

Paul A. Acquaviva  
Terence E. Adderley, Jr.  
Lee Adler  
Kermit C. Anderson  
FF Michael Bocchino  
FF Michael Boyle  
Captain Patrick Brown  
PO John D'Allara, NYPD  
Bridget Damiano  
Lt. Manuel Del Valle, Jr.  
Neil Matthew Dollard  
D.C. Raymond Downey  
Lt. Michael Esposito  
FF Robert Evans  
FF Thomas J. Foley  
Lt. David Fontana  
Captain Vincent F. Giammona

Lynn Catherine Goodchild  
Jonathan Graham  
Steven M. Hagis  
Lt. David Halderman  
Kathy Hayes  
FF Thomas J. Hetzel  
Michael C. Howell  
FF Jonathan Lee Ielpi  
Rebecca Lee Koborie  
Danielle Kousoulis  
PO John D. Levi, PAPD  
Alisha Caren Levin  
Charlotte Matticola  
Jann McCreesh  
Scott McGovern  
Lt. Paul T. Mitchell  
FF Michael D. Mullan

Lt. Raymond E. Murphy  
FF Eric Taube Olsen  
FF Michael Otten  
Joseph O. Pick  
FF Stephen P. Russell  
James K. Samuel, Jr.  
Maria Theresa C. Santillan  
Jeffrey H. Schreier  
Naomi Leah Solomon  
Michael F. Stabile  
Jonathan J. Uman  
Diane Marie Urban  
FF Louis Valentino  
Captain Patrick Waters  
FF Kenneth Watson  
FF Edward J. White III  
Donna Ann Wilson

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