



Red Cross Estate Gift Deadline

This gift will not be available after December 30, 2005.

Through the generosity of the public, the American Red Cross has awarded a \$55,000 payment to the estates of 2,869 people (as of 9/30/05) who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on America, or who still are missing four years later.

The estates of nearly 100 decedents still have not claimed this payment. If you are the executor or administrator of an estate for a 9/11 victim, and you have not applied for the Estate Gift (also called the Supplemental Gift), the Red Cross is urging that you call (877) 746-4987 to request an application.

Like other Red Cross financial assistance programs for individuals directly affected by 9/11, this gift will not be available after December 30, 2005. Estates will, however, be given additional time to provide the documentation necessary to claim the Estate Gift so long as they have filed the application by December 30.

The deadline has been established so that the Red Cross may use any unclaimed gifts to provide other 9/11-related services prior to the closing of the September 11 Recovery Program in 2007.

For a directory of these services, please visit www.redcross.org/sep-11/help and click on "Resources."



Volunteer Gerry Bogacz tells visitors about the events of September 11, 2001 and his story as a survivor as he guides them through the World Financial Center.

Tribute Program Open for Volunteers

Interested in making a difference in the lives of thousands of people? By volunteering your time as a Tribute guide you'll have the opportunity to share your personal story of September 11, 2001 with visitors as well as offer factual information. "The most unique part of this program is that a visitor could take this tour 25 times with 25 volunteers and each tour they would hear a different story," Bobby Senn, a firefighter at the site, said.

Currently, there are 52 volunteers in the program. By the spring, the Tribute Center hopes to have as many as 150 volunteers guiding tours on a regular

"The most unique part of this program is that a visitor could take this tour 25 times with 25 volunteers and each tour they would hear a different story."

basis. "When I heard about the volunteer training program, I signed up right away," Tania Head, a survivor of the attacks, said. "It is my responsibility to carry the human stories of September 11 into the future so it can inspire us and future generations to find common ground. What I will always remember is the power of the human spirit and the

need to rise above the evil and hate through giving back and keeping this spirit alive. When I give a tour, I am able to do just that."

As a volunteer at the WTC site, Angelo Guglielmo said leading and assisting the tours has been thought-provoking and fulfilling. "It has been a wonderful experience where not only was I able to share my personal story of my volunteer experience at the WTC site, but also deepen my perspective by meeting fellow volunteers who were directly affected in the aftermath of September 11," he said.

Marianne Barry, who lost her husband
Volunteers.....Continued on page 2

9/11 Commission Continuing Push for Reform

On December 5, 2005 members of the 9/11 Commission failed the Bush administration and Congress on their efforts to prevent terrorist attacks on American soil. The final report from the 9/11 Public Discourse Project, a private group established by the Commission when the panel formally went out of business last year, graded the government's response to the 41 recommendations made in the Commission's final report 17 months ago. Overall, the Commissioners' final review of the implementation of their recommendations to date was unsatisfactory.

The 9/11 Public Discourse Project released Part I, II and III of the Report on the Status of 9/11 Commission Recommendations in fall 2005. Some of the main issues in the report are summarized below. A full report can be viewed at www.9-11pdp.org.

In Part I, topics including emergency preparedness and response; transportation security; and border security were addressed.

New radio spectrum, which would allow effective radio communications during large-scale responses to major disasters, has been introduced in the House and Senate. This is important because on 9/11, inadequate radio

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**RESOURCE
CORNER**

September 11th Assistance Guide
www.sept11help.org

**9/11 Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Program**
1-800-LIFENET
www.9-11mentalhealth.org

Safe Horizon
September 11th Support Hotline
1-866-689-HELP (4357)
Free counseling for individuals, couples, families and support groups.
Ellen Fader (212) 729-5516

Hispanic Children and Families
Vanessa Ramos
(212) 206-1090 x348
www.chcfinc.org
Case management & mental health support

Faithful Response
1294 Bellmore Ave.
North Bellmore, NY 11710
(516) 679-0080 www.LDRNY.org
Free counseling services for individuals, families, children and adolescent. Support Groups.

Financial Planning Assoc.
Claude Collins
(800) 322-4237 ext. 7138
www.fpanet.org/public
Workshops & education

**TARGET - Center for Trauma
Response, Recovery &
Preparedness**
www.ctrp.org
www.ptsdfreedom.org
Community and self-support,
training and consultation

The Resiliency Program
Columbia University,
Dr. Paula A. Madrid
(212) 781-1046 or
Pam2109@columbia.edu
Counseling for adults & children and support groups. Drama therapy, art therapy with specialization in PTSD. English and Spanish available.

**WTC Bereavement Support Group
Jewish Health & Healing Network**
850 Seventh Ave, Suite 1201
New York, NY 10019
(212) 399-2685 or info@jhnm.org

**The World Trade Center
Permanency Project**
(212) 473-0222
jamesb@coac.org
Counseling in English, Spanish,
French and Creole

WTC Redevelopment Update

Since last summer, much of the buzz surrounding the redevelopment of the WTC site has focused on the controversy surrounding the proposed International Freedom Center. On September 28, Governor George E. Pataki put an end to the public debate by barring the International Freedom Center from the planned cultural building adjacent to the memorial. While the tenants are gone from the building, designed by the Norwegian architectural firm Snohetta, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation still intends to erect a building on that site, which most likely will continue to house visitor services to support the memorial. Many families and organizations were instrumental in advocating the removal of the IFC. We applaud their efforts.

Other than the IFC, progress was made in other areas of the redevelopment process:

WTC Memorial Foundation Raises \$100 Million

After six months of seeking private donations, the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation has raised more than \$101 million to fund the World Trade Center Memorial, John C. Whitehead, the foundation's chairman, announced on October 20, 2005.

The monies raised came from private donors; foundations; corporations; and contributions from individuals, schools, and businesses from 38 states and seven countries. Some of the largest donations include \$25 million from the Starr Foundation, \$15 million from Deutsche Bank, and \$10 million from the Bank of New York.

The Memorial Foundation's goal is to raise \$500 million to build the memorial, "Reflecting Absence," which is scheduled to open in 2009.

The Memorial Foundation will continue to solicit gifts from large corporations while also seeking public donations. "We look forward to working with people across the country and around the world to build the memorial," Memorial Foundation CEO Gretchen Dykstra said. If you are interested in donating, visit www.buildthememorial.org.

Bloomberg, Pataki Name New Directors

Reiterating his commitment to increase the City of New York's role in the downtown rebuilding effort, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced six new appointments --



Redesigned Freedom Tower. Photo courtesy of LMDC.

including Deputy Mayors Daniel L. Doctoroff and Marc V. Shaw, and City Planning Chair Amanda M. Burden -- to the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board of Directors. Later the same day, Gov. George Pataki named two members of his administration to the board, including Charles A. Gargano, the state's top development official, the New York Times reported.

PA Announces Redesign of WTC Chiller Plant

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey announced that it will redesign its plans for an underground chiller plant at the World Trade Center to include a radically smaller, more environmentally and economically friendly system.

According to the proposed redesign, the new plant would cost half of the \$194 million the Port Authority estimated for the larger plant and would no longer serve the entire WTC complex, as previously planned. Instead the new chiller plant would only provide service for the WTC Memorial, Memorial Museum and the PATH terminal.

(Source: www.lowermanhattan.info)

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on September 11, said the program is special in the sense that people from different parts of the world will visit the WTC site, looking for knowledge and answers. "Hopefully, our volunteer guides can give visitors answers so they can bring back to their hometowns the scope of the events and how people responded by getting first-hand knowledge from people such as us," she said. Iris Holohan, who lost her son, agrees with Barry and said the program is unique because it keeps the events of September 11 "real." "One of the best parts of this program is looking into the eyes of those who want to know more about that day and what followed," she said.

The tour, which lasts about an hour,

has five stops. The group meets in front of the Tribute Center on 120 Liberty Street. After the introduction, the group proceeds to the second stop outside the gates of the Family House. The tour then enters the World Financial Center and makes its third stop at a large window overlooking the site. The fourth and fifth stops of the tour are the Winter Garden and the American Express Memorial.

People who volunteer include but are not limited to, family members, survivors of the attacks, Lower Manhattan workers and residents, police officers, firefighters, other rescue workers and volunteers. All volunteers must be age 18 or older.

The first step is to complete a written application. After the application is completed, he or she will be contacted for an interview. After volunteers

complete their training, they develop and practice their tours until they are ready to be a tour leader. To receive an application, email your request to Volunteer@tributenyc.org.

If you would like to volunteer, but are not interested in giving tours, there are other ways you can help. Once Tribute opens, volunteers will be needed to work as greeters to answer questions and help with the visitors. Please contact us at volunteer@tributenyc.org for more information.

"Being part of this program is yet one more gift I have been given in being alive," Senn said. "People from all over the world will leave this place knowing that NEVER FORGET will always be more than just two words."

A Look Inside the Tribute Center



Construction workers complete Phase I of demolition in the Tribute Center.



With an opening planned for spring 2006, the Tribute Center is well on its way to becoming a learning center filled with documents, photographs, artifacts, visitors, and much more. Plans for putting "a human face" on the events of February 26, 1993 and September 11, 2001 at the WTC site, the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA are set in place for the center where thousands of visitors will be able to obtain accurate information about the events of those tragic days and participate in a "walking tour" of the World Trade Center site. "We've just finished the architectural drawings for Tribute and construction will begin in January 2006," Sally Yerkovich, Tribute president, said.

What sits on 120 Liberty Street now is an empty building that will, by spring-time, be a place where visitors can connect with the September 11th community and the events that affected so many. "Visitors will gain an understanding about how September 11th affected the lives of people who lost loved ones; people who live or work in the area; people who survived the attacks; the police, fire and emergency workers who responded and the thousands of people who came to help," Yerkovich said.

sonally affected by the terrorist attacks. "The exhibitions in Tribute will tell about the events of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 through the intimate and moving stories of the people who lived through them," Yerkovich said. "We will use sound and video recordings, pictures, artifacts and other pertinent items and documents."

Proud of Tribute's progress during the last year, Yerkovich is also pleased with the amount of support they've received. "Over 550 families are working with us or have contributed to making Tribute a reality," she said.

The displays in the center will offer visitors a look into the lives of people per-

For more information about the Tribute Center, visit www.tributenyc.org.

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spectrum hindered first responder communications. "A number of the recommendations in our report - on planning, communication, and unified command - would improve all hazards response to a wide variety of public safety incidents, including terrorist attacks and natural disasters," said Vice Chair Lee H. Hamilton.

Regarding transportation security, the Commissioners recommended the U.S. government evaluate the transportation assets that need to be protected and develop a plan to implement the effort. Since the recommendation, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 required DHS to prepare a National Strategy for Transportation Security, due April 1, 2005. This report has been transmitted to Congress, yet remains classified.

In order to constrain terrorist mobility, the National Counterterrorism Center and the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center are developing the first terrorist travel strategy, which can help detect terrorists and prevent attacks.

In Part II, topics including the intelligence community, civil liberties and executive power were addressed.

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 established the National Counterterrorism Center and required the NCTC to begin operations by June 17, 2005. The pur-

pose of the center is to bring personnel from various agencies to the table for information sharing and planning. "We are engaged in more than a war on terrorism," said former 9/11 Commission Chair Thomas H. Kean. "Intelligence, military action, and homeland defense are necessary, but not sufficient to defeat Islamist extremism. To prevail, we need to win the struggle of ideas, using all the tools of public diplomacy."

Congress has held many hearings devoted to review the provisions of the Patriot Act due to concerns regarding the shifting balance of power. The House and Senate have completed action on separate bills; and a conference report before the end of the year is expected.

In Part III, topics including nonproliferation, foreign policy, and public diplomacy were addressed.

There has been positive movement on programs to secure nuclear warheads and materials, although many research facilities worldwide lack basic security features. The Commissioners proposed President Bush develop a plan to accelerate the amount of time for securing all nuclear weapons.

To understand terrorist networks, terrorist funding must be tracked. With U.S. support, the Financial Action Task Force agreed to create regional groups in Eurasia, the Middle East and North Africa to implement FATF recommendations to fight money laundering and terrorist financing.

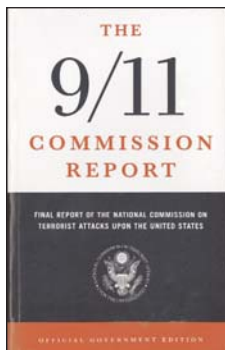
Within the final report Chairman Kean and Vice

Chair Hamilton recognized the constructive and diligent work of 9/11 families who worked with the commission by saying, "The 9/11 families are an example for every student of government: Citizen involvement makes a huge and positive difference." Under acknowledgements recognizing support for the commission and public discourse project Kean first thanked the September 11th families and specifically Mary and Frank Fetchet, Carie Lemack, Carol Ashley, Kathy Wisniewski and Abe Scott, working tirelessly on behalf of the recommendations.

"The American people ought to demand answers," said James R. Thompson. "Why aren't our tax dollars being spent to protect our lives?" The new report was also strongly critical of the government's failures to tighten airline passenger screening, to provide adequate radio spectrum to allow police and fire departments to communicate in a terrorist attack and to push for political reforms in Saudi Arabia. There was sharp criticism of Congress as having failed to overhaul its methods of oversight on intelligence issues, and of the FBI as moving too slowly to overhaul its antiterrorism operations.

Chairman Kean concluded with a statement about the road ahead, saying "Everywhere we go, there is a huge interest in 9/11, and people want to know: are we safe? Our answer is that we are safer, but we are not yet safe. Four years after 9/11, we are not as safe as we could be - and that is not acceptable."

Our appreciation goes out to the many family members working diligently to ensure the Commission's recommendations are implemented.



Donations in Memoriam

William Conklin
Robert E. Evans
Carol Ann Flyzik
Laura Gilly
Jonathan Ielpi
James Francis Lynch
Michael Matthew Miller
Daniel McNeal
Laurie Ann Neira
Ann Nicole Nelson
James Nelson
John S. Salerno, Jr.
Scott Jeffrey Weingard

Info to Know

Put your loved one's photo on the site Christmas tree

The Christmas tree at the World Trade Center Family House will once again be decorated with photographs of our lost loved ones. If you cannot come to the site to place a picture on the tree yourself, we will hang one for you. If you would like to send a photo for the tree, e-mail a small photo to:
kgrieger@911families.org.

Save the Survivors' Stairway

The World Trade Center Survivors' Network, New York Landmarks Conservancy and the Municipal Art Society hope to preserve the

December 12- 6:00 p.m.
Christmas tree lighting at the World Trade Center Family Viewing area: Fr. Brian Jordan will officiate. The entrance is at Gate 7 - Liberty and Washington Streets. This event is closed to the press.

December 17- 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Interfaith service in honor of those lost
St. Paul's Chapel
209 Broadway, New York, NY

The Harlem Gospel Choir and Loco-Motion Dance Theater will perform. Families may bring a memorial ornament for St. Paul's

Winter Calendar

tree. The sculpture "Ascent" will be revealed after the service. Reservations required: (866) 505-3911 or email@voicesofsept11.org.

December 24- 11:45 p.m.-12:45 a.m.

Midnight Mass
Family Viewing area
Fr. Brian Jordan
Families only

December 25- 5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Menorah lighting every night starting Dec. 25
Family Viewing area
Rabbi Potasnik
Families only

Family Visits to WTC Site:

Families will be escorted down the ramp to pay their respects Sunday, Dec. 11 and Sunday, Dec. 18 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

** Because Christmas and the New Year fall on Sundays, it was decided that descending the ramp would not occur on those days. The viewing area will be accessible, as always, for family visitations.*

Survivors' Stairway, the only remaining above-ground piece of the World Trade Center. On the Vesey Street side of the WTC site, stairs and part of an escalator still stand, the last piece of the complex in its original location.

Site plans indicate the staircase will need to be moved or demolished in order to complete the area's rebuilding. For information, please visit www.survivorsnet.org.

New at Tuesday's Children

Tuesday's Children welcomes your participation in its upcoming programs. Information can be found on the Web site at: www.tuesdayschildren.org. It features an Events Calendar and a specially designed "For Families" section. Look for the new program "First

Steps", a program specially designed for younger children. For information, call (516) 562-9000.

Holiday drive for the troops

WTC United Family Group is having a holiday drive for the troops. Visit www.wtcunited.org/programs.html (click on "philanthropic projects") to learn what items are needed and how to package them.

Feel the Music!

The Feel the Music! free music workshops for children directly affected by September 11th have been a huge hit.

New York City: The New York workshops, held at Saint Peter's Church on 54th Street, have blossomed into a jazz ensemble, a percussion class, family music for children

under 5, a Thursday afternoon singing workshop and private piano lessons. Registration for the NYC winter cycle will open December 15.

Long Island - Rockville Centre: Percussion workshops: Monday evenings, starting January 9, 2006.

Long Island - Manhasset: Saturday percussion workshop.

New York - All Boroughs: Video and music production workshops for teens and preteens in all five boroughs! Learn how to make a video, a documentary, or record music!

For information, call (212) 669-6126 or email Valerie Ghent at: valerie@musicandhealing.org

Feel the Music! is an interactive music program offered by the World Foundation for Music and Healing (WFMH).

September 11th Families' Association
22 Cortlandt Street, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10007

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