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/september11/help and click on “Resources.”

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 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

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.


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 communications made it nearly impossible for emergency responders to communicate with first responders.

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

22 Cortlandt Street, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10007
www.911families.org
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 $181 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 — 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 E. 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)
A Look Inside 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.

The displays in the center will offer visitors a look into the lives of people personally 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.

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

**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. Salem 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 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).

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**Winter Calendar**

**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 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.

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