



Tour Program Serves 100,000 Visitors

In the spring of 2009, the Tribute Center walking tour program celebrated serving 100,000 visitors on personal tours of the World Trade Center site.

The generosity and courage of volunteers to share their experiences of 9/11 and in the aftermath has allowed visitors a unique window into understanding the impact of 9/11. The program has also proved to be tremendously healing for volunteers. "Many volunteers originally stated that their greatest healing came from being able to share their experiences during their tours. But over time, most have modified their understanding of what is responsible for their healing - it is now more related to interaction with visitors from around the world. Visitors have acknowledged how central 9/11 is to world history, and the power of Tribute tours in helping people understand its impact on people. Volunteers have also mentioned how powerful it has been to learn from one another while supporting each other on tours, building compassion and deeper appreciation of the complexity of 9/11 experiences," said Wendy Aibel-Weiss, Director of Education and Exhibitions for the Tribute Center.

Beginning in the summer of 2005, outside the vacant storefront that became the Tribute WTC Visitor Center, trained volunteers offered visitors tours of the World Trade Center site. From there the program grew to providing 3-6 tours daily, and has added an audio tour in six languages that shares the experiences of fourteen volunteers. The Tribute volunteer program has trained 250 guides from the 9/11 community - family members, survivors, recovery workers and Lower Manhattan residents - to share their personal experiences in the context of the World Trade Center site and the events of 9/11. Thandi Lewis, who schedules volunteers for tours, knows firsthand how rewarding the program has been for many. "Serving over 100,000 visitors on tours of the site is a tremendous accomplishment. Our volunteers enjoy meeting people from around the world. Each person leaves the tour with a memorable moment of understanding."

If you would like to become a Tribute Center volunteer, email Tracy Grosner: volunteer@tributewtc.org

Thoughts from Tribute Center Volunteers

"I always come away from a tour with an 'upbeat' feeling. It's a form of positive therapy for me."

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One Million Visitors & Counting



Students & Teachers from Perry High School, Lima OH, with Jennifer Adams and Lee Ielpi

one-millionth person to walk through the doors. She shared the honor and great surprise in being the one-millionth visitor with her classmates, teacher and chaperones. To mark the occasion, the group was presented with a plaque containing steel from the World Trade Center to honor all those who have come to the Tribute Center to learn about the events and pay their respects. Shaique noted, "It's sad to see all the things that appened, to actually see it for myself rather than on the news. It made me cry."

"The dream to create the Tribute WTC Visitor Center was inspired by a group of high school students visiting the World Trade Center site in March of 2004," said Lee Ielpi, Board President of the September 11th Families' Association. "It is fitting that today, five years later, this ceremony honors the success of our person-to-person history concept, which has reached another group of students and a million visitors." In exhibitions, programs and on tours, the Tribute Center shares a diversity of personal perspectives. "Many of our visitors return a second or third time, bringing along a family member or friend to share the experience. We are making an impact, remembering and teaching students what happened on that tragic day one person at a time." said Jennifer Adams, Tribute Center CEO.

To honor the occasion, the Tribute Center hosted an event raising funds to support its educational programs. Governor Patterson attended, stating, "The Tribute Center is a testament to our resolve." Mayor Bloomberg complimented the Tribute volunteers for their dedication and resolve to educate the people from around the world that come to NYC. "Tribute Center volunteers courageously share their stories and represent the

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The Tribute WTC Visitor Center welcomed the one-millionth visitor on March 27, 2009, reaching a remarkable milestone in less than two-and-a-half years. Last year, more than 500,000 people from the United States and over 120 countries visited the Tribute Center.

Shaique Gamble, 16, a student and member of the Perry High School band and choir from Lima, Ohio, was the

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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)

NYC DOHMH Benefit Program

1-877-737-1164
The Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is
offering an insurance-like benefit
to help cover mental health and
substance use treatment for New
York City residents affected by
September 11th.
www.nyc.gov/9-11mentalhealth

American Psychological Assoc.

1-800-964-2000
Referrals on everything from
managing traumatic stress to
coping with terrorism
www.apa.org/topics/topictrauma.html

Faithful Response

516-679-0080
Free, faith-based mental health
programs for Long Island
residents.
www.faithfulresponse.org

Trauma & Wellness Center St. Vincent's Health Hospital

212-346-2582
Mental health counseling, healing
services and stress management.

Columbia University & NY State Psychiatric Insitute

212-543-5367
Does the grief over the death of a
loved one on September 11th still
interfere with your life?
Free treatment for those eligible.

Mount Sinai Medical Center

1-888-702-0630
Medical monitoring for workers
and volunteers.
www.wtcexams.org

Immigrant Heritage Week in New York

The Tribute Center was honored to be chosen as one of many featured sites that celebrated New York City's Immigrant Heritage Week (April 17-23). The Center produced three programs that reflect the immigrant experience after September 11th relating to our current exhibition "*Renewing Our American Dream after 9/11*" (March – October), which explores how the dreams of many in our immigrant communities were challenged and transformed by 9/11.

The third annual *Tribute Poetry Reading* featured poems on the American Dream. People with roots in Russia, Haiti, Italy, Ireland, Greece, Iran, Mexico, and Argentina read poems that reflect their appreciation of their lives in this country, their keen awareness of the fact that people from many different countries live here together, and what it means to be an American.

The 9/11 Project was a program that shared the collaborative effort by nine of the city's top law firms who provided pro bono assistance to 9/11 family members. Lawyer Debra Brown Steinberg talked about her ongoing part of the project, which focuses on obtaining legal presence for undocumented 9/11 family members. NYC Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs Guillermo Linares stressed the value that New York City places on the contributions of immigrants who have historically made this city a creative, vibrant metropolis.

Diversity in NYC's Muslim Communities represented cultural leaders in the Middle Eastern, African American, South Asian and West African Muslim communities, who spoke about the grief their communities experienced after 9/11, reactions to their communities by other Americans, and ways they envision moving forward. These programs reminded audiences of how broader social issues relate to 9/11 and how people from different cultures can work together to foster understanding.

Families of Freedom Scholarships

The Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund was established with the foresight that the loss of a family provider on 9/11 would put the educational futures of thousands of students in jeopardy.

The Fund will ultimately provide more than \$100 million in post-secondary education assistance to an entire generation of financially needy dependents of those who died or were permanently disabled in the attacks on 9/11.

Since the inception of The Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund, \$36.4 million has been awarded to 1,183 students in need. Scholarship America is dedicated to serving approximately 5,000 more students through the year 2030.

As many of you know, Scholarship America, the administrator of the Families of Freedom Fund, is in the process of reviewing applications for the coming academic year. Scholarship notifications will be provided to families and students in late July 2009.

If you will be attending college or any other post-secondary educational school in the 2009–2010 academic year and did not make the May 15 deadline to apply for a scholarship, it is not too late! You still have the opportunity to apply at any time throughout the year, but you must provide a billing statement from your school along with your application. Please remember that a copy of your most recent 1040 tax form and transcript of grades, if you received previous scholarship funding, must also be included.

Information or registration
www.familiesoffreedom.org
1-877-862-0136

WTC Memorial Name Verification National September 11 Memorial & Museum

NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11
MEMORIAL & MUSEUM
AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

Over the next month, all next-of-kin of those killed on September 11, 2001 should receive an official Memorial Name Verification and Arrangement Package in the mail from the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. Please verify your loved one's name(s) for the inscription, and arrangement, such as where your loved one worked or was on 9/11, and relationships that should be reflected in the way the names are inscribed. This is the first important step in arranging the names for inscription on the permanent Memorial at the World Trade Center.

If you have any questions, contact the National September 11 Memorial & Museum:
1-877-671-1636 or www.national911memorial.org

Volunteer Program... from page 1

"The most rewarding part of leading Tribute Center tours is looking into the eyes of people from all over the world who want to learn and listen."

"For many years, after losing a family member, I was not involved in anything involving the WTC. Tribute has helped me grieve and address many of the questions which I still have about the day."

"I realized that we in NY don't 'own' September 11th. I learned that from visitors from all over the world. I will never feel alone in my feelings about the attack again. This has been a revelation and a great gift to me."

"The personal experience is what really gives you the connection to the site, because I came down and walked around the site, and I didn't feel a thing. I saw a construction site. It wasn't until the guide shared his experience about September 11th - that was when I got the emotional connection."
-Tribute Center Visitor

Thank you to the Tribute Center Volunteers for sharing your stories with the world.

Volunteers who have given over 100 Tribute tours!

Gerry Bogacz	Donna Kaz	Bob Nussberger
Pauline Bonaventura	Chris Kraft	Mia Robello
Bridget Damiano	Max Laboy	Joe Torillo
Doug Gomez	Gail Langsner	Ann Van Hine
Linda Gormley	Denise McFadden	Ron Vega
Kimberly Grieger	Paul McFadden	Rita Weiner
John Henderson	Theresa Mullan	Carol Wilkinson

Volunteers who have given over 50 Tribute tours!

Brenda Berkman	Eileen Green	Peggy McGrane
Lisa Bellan-Boyer	Chris Hardej	Marty McTigue
Desiree Bouchat	Iris Holohan	Maie Mills
Jennifer Brown	Bari Hyman	Dennis Mulligan
Peter Brown	Maria Iacavone	Joe O'Toole
Rosemary Cain	Bobby Johann	Manny Papir
Nancy Cimei	Jim Kazalis	Bruce Powers
George Coughlin	Sam Kedem	Kate Richardson
RoseEllen Dowdell	Dina LaFond	Al Santora
Pat Foley	Eileen Lugano	Maureen Santora
Leokadia Glogowski	Maria Malone-Hodges	Dorry Tooker
June Grancio	Walter Masterson	Elia Zedeño

One Million Visitors...
from page 1



Lee Ielpi, Mayor Bloomberg,
Governor Patterson

best of our city." The Tribute Center is looking forward to another busy summer. Volunteers and staff remain passionate about our mission, and with everyone's hard work and dedication, we hope to celebrate our two-millionth visitor in the very near future!

September 11th Day of Service - Federal Legislation Signed

On April 21, 2009, President Barack Obama signed legislation authorizing the establishment of September 11th as an annually recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance as part of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

The historic moment realized a goal of *MyGoodDeed.org*, an organization started by September 11th family members and friends which has been advocating for the September 11th Day of Service since 2003. "This legislation creates a historic, enduring and compassionate legacy that truly honors the September 11th victims and their families, and all those who spontaneously contributed in the immediate aftermath of September 11th," said David Paine, founder and president of *MyGoodDeed.org*.

Under the new law, the anniversary of September 11th will be observed in ways similar to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, although it intentionally won't be a federal holiday. "Our goal is *not* for September

11th to become a government-designated day off," said *MyGoodDeed* co-founder Jay S. Winuk, whose brother, attorney and volunteer firefighter Glenn J. Winuk, died in the line of duty on September 11th. "Rather, we seek to activate millions of people, businesses and organizations to voluntarily engage in some form of service each September 11th."

The new legislation authorizes the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees federal national service programs, to make grants and provide assistance to non-profits and other groups to organize September 11th service and remembrance activities. *MyGoodDeed* plans to organize the largest day of service in U.S. history on the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

**For more information visit
www.MyGoodDeed.org**

8th Annual Ground Zero Independence Ride

Saturday September 19th
9:30 am at Church & Vesey Streets
From WTC site to Pomona NY
with NYPD & PAPD escort
For more information and to sign up:
908-534-5818
www.groundzeroinride.com

FF Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers 5K Run/Walk

Sunday September 27
9:30 am Brooklyn Battery Tunnel
For more information and to sign up:
718-987-1931
www.tunneltotowersrun.org

Find us online

www.911families.org

www.tributewtc.org

Lee Ielpi's Blog
<http://shapingourfuture-lee.blogspot.com>

Facebook
Tribute WTC Visitor Center

Twitter
<http://twitter.com/TributeWTC>

Donations in Memoriam

Michael Rourke Andrews
FF Carl John Bedigian
Craig Michael Blass
FF Michael Bocchino
FF Michael Boyle
Richard J. Cudina
Michael D. Diehl
Melissa C. Doi
Lt. Kevin Dowdell
DC Raymond M. Downey
Christopher Michael Duffy
Paige Marie Farley-Hackel
FF Thomas J. Foley
FF David Fontana
Terence Gazzani
Kieran Gorman, Local 79

FF David Halderman
Harvey Robert Hermer
Marcia Hoffman
Jimmie Ira Holley
Joseph Anthony Ianelli
Daniel Ilkanayev
Scott Michael Johnson
Fire Marshal Vincent D. Kane
BC Charles L. Kasper
James Joseph Kelly
Sarah Khan
Jeffrey Earle LeVeen
P.O. John Dennis Levi
Alisha Caren Levin
FF John Kevin McAvoy
Barry J. McKeon

FF Henry Alfred Miller, Jr.
Michael Matthew Miller
FF Michael D. Mullan
Lt. Raymond E. Murphy
Glenroy I. Neblett
FF Gerard T. Nevins
Joseph John Perroncino
Larry Polatsch
Lt. Kenneth John Phelan
Patricia Ann Puma
FF Kevin O. Reilly
Greg Richards
Raymond James Rocha
Richard Barry Ross
Ronald J. Ruben
FF Thomas E. Sabella

Jesus Sanchez
Eric Sand
Jeffrey H. Schreier
Raphael Scorca
Michael Seaman
Anthony Segarra
Carlos Segarra
Arturo Sereno, Local 638
Richard James Stadelberger
Michael A. Uliano
FF Kenneth Thomas Watson
FF Michael Weinberg
Scott Weingard
David Williams, Local 94
All those lost from
the Port Authority of NY & NJ

September 11th Families' Association
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