On September 18, 2014, the Tribute Center held our sixth annual 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance volunteer event. Six hundred volunteers assembled 500 bicycles for children of active military in observance of the National 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance. “9/11 Tribute Center volunteers share their personal stories every day,” said Jennifer Adams, CEO of the 9/11 Tribute Center. “The 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance is special for so many who were affected by 9/11 to share the spirit of remembering and to give back to our military and their families.”

The 9/11 Tribute Center is approaching the 10th anniversary of our walking tour program, which is built around the sharing of our personal stories. Additionally, our guides tell their stories in our galleries, with school groups, “skyping” with distant classrooms, and most recently in the auditorium of the 9/11 Memorial Museum as a part of the Tribute Center presentation “We Were There.” All of these programs are centered around sharing our personal 9/11 stories and we have learned a great deal about the power of sharing.

For the past 9 years, the Tribute Center has demonstrated how sharing stories can help overcome trauma. By shaping experiences to construct a story (though ordering, curating, and selecting), each individual can achieve better clarity and understanding of a complex experience. The act of shaping a story involves personal investigation and inner truths can be revealed.

Tribute staff help guides to recognize the difference between the historical telling of events that happened versus how to share a story that personally affected or changed the individual. We have also learned much about our listeners. Storytellers at the Tribute Center truly build a bridge to the heart of their audience; transporting them from the abstraction of historical events to the more common humanity that we share.

Our stories help both the listener and the storyteller to construct a narrative from their experiences and to share how dealing with trauma may result in personal growth. A story of evacuation might also be about finding courage that you never knew was there. A story about the loss of a loved one might also concern the need not to forget and to celebrate the person’s life.

Tribute provides multiple-session workshops to work with each 9/11 community volunteer to assist in sharing their personal story. Tribute staff coach volunteers on their journey of editing their experience into a story that deeply touches others. If you would like to share your story at the Tribute Center with schools or guided groups call Nancy Gamerman at 212-422-3520 ext 112 or email volunteer@tributewtc.org.

“BNY Mellon is committed to supporting programs that help our military transition back into civilian life, as well as programs that help their families while they’re deployed,” said Daisey Holmes, Managing Director of Corporate Affairs at BNY Mellon. Volunteers from companies affected by 9/11 who assembled the bikes included BNY Mellon, American Express, AON, Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft, CME Group, Commodity Floor Brokers & Traders Association, Deutsche Bank, Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Morgan Stanley, Sandler O’Neill Partners, and Zurich.

Volunteers were organized into teams for the bike assembly. Stations for building bikes included inflating tires, quality control, ribbons & bows and a note to each child in appreciation for their parent’s service. The project is a team-building and inspirational experience for volunteers to give back to our country in support of the US military. Friends from Apex Xpress Inc, who loaded and delivered the bikes to Fort Benning, GA, along with the FDNY, NYPD, PAPD, US Army and Coast Guard were on hand making the day special.

157 bikes were given to Army families from Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn; and 343 bikes were delivered on September 20th to Fort Benning to families of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

“Words cannot express the joy the bikes brought! As a military family opportunities to create memories with one another mean the world to us and Tribute gave us the opportunity to create one of the most classic of memories. Thank you to the wonderful folks at the 9/11 Tribute Center”

— the Pegues Family

www.tributewtc.org

22 Cortlandt Street, Suite 801, New York NY 10007

TRIBUTE STORIES: A TRANSFORMATIONAL JOURNEY

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TRIBUTE STORIES SHARE MANY JOURNEYS ONLINE

After years of collecting powerful oral histories from people directly affected by 9/11, the Tribute Center will be expanding our collection with video. Testimonials will also include video of Tribute guides sharing their personal stories with visitors, students and public audiences.

This year Tribute will produce a number of dynamic new online exhibits that use this unique collection, sharing dozens of excerpts from personal stories. Three curated online exhibits will share the stories. The first exhibit to open will be an in-depth look at The Survivor Experience. The program will begin with an overview video that offers psychological insight into experiences common to survivors. The interactive exhibit will include stories from people who worked in the World Trade Center or who lived in the neighborhood.

The second online exhibit, The Art of Telling One’s Story is developed from ten 9/11 stories. Each story reveals the complexity of challenges that 9/11 generated and our shared humanity in overcoming those challenges. Tribute’s guides discuss how they choose which parts of their stories to share with the public.

JOIN TRIBUTE PROGRAMS

Surviving the Unexpected
On September 29, Tribute presented the first in a series of programs looking at survivors and the ways in which they move forward after a devastating experience. Panelists included two men who saved each other in the South Tower on 9/11 – Stanley Praimnath who worked for Fuji Bank and Brian Clark who worked at Euro Brokers. After they recounted their story, Mark Monchek, a consultant who worked to support Euro Brokers’ personnel, and Craig Katz, a psychiatrist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who established the mental health component of the WTC Medical Treatment and Monitoring Program, provided a larger look at how individuals process survival. Questions the panelists reflected upon included “What is the importance of sharing one’s story of survival? What are the impacts on family members of survivors?”

Rebuilding the FDNY After 9/11
On Tuesday, October 7, the 9/11 Tribute Center collaborated with Pace University to present a talk by former NYC Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano and FDNY Chief of Department Edward Kilduff. Both men have played key roles in leading the department that had to recover from their tremendous losses of September 11, 2001.

“When we took the FDNY oath, we knew we would all come to the aid of each other... We talked about rebuilding that night.... Manufacturers immediately called us to ask ‘What do you need?’ and they diverted shipments to us. People with vast knowledge who were retired came back and helped us out,” Commissioner Cassano began. “People stepped up and assumed greater responsibility to help the department, people sacrificed their own time and worked with us 80-100 hours a week,” Chief Kilduff emphasized.

The two men talked about the emotional toll people experienced as they planned and trained for multiple new possible scenarios in a changed world. With the help of the consulting firm McKinsey & Company, they developed a strategic plan for rebuilding the FDNY and responding to major disasters. The FDNY video is available from Pace University. Access iTunes at http://tinyurl.com/RebuildingFDNY.

Stories from the Front: Veterans’ Writing
Wednesday, November 12 at 6:30 pm
Former military personnel who participate in NYU’s Veterans’ Writing Workshop will share their narratives of experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan and other fronts around the world after 9/11. Their vivid writing captures feelings as they adjusted to the experiences of surviving at war or helping in a humanitarian crisis. Their essays and short stories also attempt to explain the transition from being in extreme situations to being at home. Presented at Tribute in collaboration with NYU’s Creative Writing Program.

Admission is free but reservations are suggested. Reserve your space by emailing rsvp@tributewtc.org with “Veterans’ Writing” in the subject line.
REAUTHORIZE ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH COMPENSATION

By Debra Brown Steinberg, 9/11 Tribute Center Board of Directors

Bipartisan legislation has been introduced to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, enacted in 2010, created two essential programs for 9/11 responders and survivors: (1) the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program—providing proper monitoring, critical treatment, and medical care for 9/11-related conditions; and (2) the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF)—providing compensation for physical harm resulting from involvement at Ground Zero. Both the WTC Health Program and the VCF are set to expire in 2015.

On September 17, 2014, a bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (H.R. 5503, S. 2844), which would continue the WTC Health Program and the VCF through 2041. “Because many of the 30,000 responders and survivors who are ill have multiple conditions which are chronic and will need care for the rest of their lives, this long date guarantees continued treatment” through the WTC Health Program. The legislation also would continue invaluable research documenting the health effects of the WTC attacks, which is “critical for reaching breakthroughs in diagnosing and treating WTC-related illnesses.” In addition, the VCF would remain open until 2041 to “allow protection for victims with latent claims,” reflecting the identification of more than 60 types of cancers as 9/11-related illnesses.

We thank the Sponsors and Co-sponsors of the bill for undertaking to “do everything in [their] power to get this new legislation passed and signed into law” (Senator Gillibrand), to “extend critically needed medical treatment and compensation programs for another 25 years” (Senator Schumer), and to “continue to ensure that our 9/11 heroes receive the care they deserve” (Congressman King). “Reauthorizing this legislation needs to be a top priority in Congress” (Senator Murphy). “We have a moral obligation to assist those who still carry the wounds of that day. We must extend the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act” (Congresswoman Maloney).


SUPPORT TRIBUTE #GIVING TUESDAY

BLACK FRIDAY. CYBER MONDAY.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

DECEMBER 2, 2014

Get ready to give! Most people know about Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Just as Black Friday kicks off the holiday shopping season, #GivingTuesday is the opening day of the giving season.

This year, all of us at the 9/11 Tribute Center hope you will join us for #GivingTuesday – a day to give back and make a difference. We have two days that are good for the economy. Now we have a day that is good for the community too. You can help us make a difference by making a donation at tributewtc.org/GivingTuesday.

Help us to raise awareness by sharing with friends and family the Tribute Facebook, Twitter & Instagram @TributeWTC pages using #GivingTuesday and #911TributeGiving. To learn how you can be an Ambassador for the 9/11 Tribute Center #GivingTuesday campaign, please call Sarah Roberts at (212) 422-3520 ext 128 or email at donate@tributewtc.org.

Profile in Giving: Tracy Gazzani

On 9/11, my world came crashing down around me. My only child Terry worked for Cantor Fitzgerald. That Saturday, only days after 9/11, my friends and family gathered at my house to share stories about Terry and celebrate his life. My home was packed, with people spilling off the balcony and onto my front yard.

Today, I share my story about Terry with visitors from across the country and around the world. In 2008, I became a 9/11 Tribute Center volunteer guide. It’s a decision that saved my life. Talking about Terry prevented me from giving in to the grief, and I discovered great comfort and friendship in Tribute’s community of volunteer guides. I don’t know where I would be without the 9/11 Tribute Center. Every year, I make a donation in honor of Terry, supporting Tribute’s mission to educate, honor and build a brighter future.

Terry loved life; he lived it to the fullest. In November 2001, I found a couple of pieces of paper on which Terry had written his goals. When I talk to school groups, I tell the kids about those pieces of paper I found, encouraging children to embrace life and make their hopes and dreams come true.

Calling All Corporate Employees: Double Your Donation

Corporate matching gift programs are charitable giving programs set up by corporations in which the company matches donations made by employees to eligible nonprofit organizations. For example, if a donor works for a corporation and donates $100 to the 9/11 Tribute Center, the company will double the donation by also writing a check for $100.

Thousands of companies offer matching gift programs. The impact of these programs can be substantial! You can immediately assess your eligibility and gain access and detailed corporate giving information about your employer by searching our database of companies with matching programs at tributewtc.org/support/matchinggifts. If your company isn’t listed, make sure to check with HR as there are many additional companies out there who offer matching gift programs.
DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

Andrew Anthony Abate
Vincent Paul Abate
Paul A. Acquaviva, Esq.
Steven H. Berger
Kenneth Marcus Caldwell
Bridget Damiano

Terence D. Gazzani
Traver E. Hartill
Jonathan Ielpi
Erik Hans Isbrandtsen
Joseph London
Fr. Pat Malone

Lt. Paul Mitchell
Joseph Pick
John J. Scibilia
Michael F. Stabile
Derek Ogilvie Sword
Harry Taback

Join the Giving Movement. Make a Difference.
Donate to the 9/11 Tribute Center and help spread the word to your family and friends.
#GivingTuesday   #911TributeGiving

DATES TO REMEMBER

Visit www.911families.org and select “Events” for a full list of upcoming events.

Golf Fore America’s Bravest
Tuesday, November 11, 2014
Staten Island, NY
www.tunnel2towers.org

New York Runnin’ United 5K
for Fred Gabler
Sunday, November 16, 2014
79th Street Boat Basin, NYC
www.fredgabler.org/donate.php

Posse’s Fall Gathering
Saturday, November 22, 2014
Park Avenue Tavern, NYC
michaelarmstrongfoundation@gmail.com

Mark Zeplin Foundation Benefit Concert
Saturday, November 22, 2014
Irving Plaza, NYC
www.marczeplin.com

Keane Foundation Luminaria Sales
Mon - Wed, December 1-24, 2014
Wethersfield, CT
www.keanefoundation.org

Vigiano Brothers Bravest & Finest Ski Event
January 11 - 14, 2015
Stowe Mountain Lodge, VT
www.stowe.com

9/11 TRIBUTE CENTER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM
January 9th and 10th

9/11 TRIBUTE CENTER