

New Jersey Family Assistance Center



Update:

October 20, 2003

Governor's Message

I am gratified that I was able to meet with many of the families and survivors at Drumthwacket on September 7th to personally learn about your current feelings and needs. Your grace and courage throughout this ordeal have been an inspiration to us all.

As part of the observation of the second anniversary of the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks on the World Trade Center, New Jersey again hosted the families of victims and survivors at Liberty State Park with the assistance of the Park staff, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross. We are grateful to those organizations for their continued support of the families and survivors and thank them for their services that day and every day.

On September 11, 2003, New Jersey also ferried the families and survivors across the river to the site of New York City's commemorative ceremony with the help of the Circle Line, which donated a ferry and crew. The New Jersey residents were then escorted to Ground Zero by the New Jersey State Police and admitted to the site by New York police through prior arrangement with my Office of Recovery and Victim Assistance (ORVA).

I have been told by some who attended the commemorative observance at Ground Zero that this was a great comfort. I hope that you will continue to make use of the resources we have developed for you. New Jersey Family Advocate Management, Inc. (NJFAM) is ready to provide you with services, answer questions, and help in any way they can. Please call NJFAM at **866-652-7474** or ORVA at **609-777-1248**.

I would also like to remind you that I have announced my support for proposed legislation that would extend the statute of limitations for September 11th wrongful death actions arising out of the terrorist attacks. This legislation will help the hundreds of families who still need time to decide whether to file a claim with the federal Victim Compensation Fund, which requires them to waive their right to pursue civil remedies through a law suit. The bill would be enacted retroactively to extend the deadline for filing a law suit one year from September 11, 2003 until September 11, 2004. However, the Victim Compensation Fund deadline has not been extended by Congress. Please consult the adjacent article on the Victim Compensation Fund to help you consider your rights under federal law.



Victim Compensation Fund Deadline Nears

REMINDER: The **deadline** for applying to the federal September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (the Fund) is **December 22, 2003**. According to the Fund, 1,472 death claims and 1,283 personal injury claims had been filed by press time. Of those, 736 awards have been accepted. The Justice Department estimates that by the December deadline, 3,000 death claims and 2,500 to 3,000 personal injury claims will have been received. These numbers make it likely that a last minute deluge of applications will be filed.

You many have read about the recent proposal submitted to extend the Fund's filing deadline, but there is no guarantee that this will be successful. **Do not assume that the deadline will be extended.**

ORVA is not advocating the Fund over any other option, but rather providing this reminder in order to help ensure that families have the opportunity to make informed choices.

You are urged to consult with your lawyer in order to make the best decision for you and your family. Whatever you decide, please do not put yourself in a position where you will be scrambling at the last minute or be out of time.

If you do not have an attorney, Trial Lawyers Care offers, free, trained volunteer attorneys to assist you. Visit www.911lawhelp.org. The Fund also offers two Claims Assistance Sites in New Jersey at:

- ◆ 1551 S. Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor
Piscataway, NJ 08854
- ◆ 101 Hudson Street, 26th Floor
(corner of Hudson & Montgomery Streets)
Jersey City NJ 07302

Or, you can visit the Department of Justice website at: www.usdoj.gov/victimcompensation.

Lion's Club

The Lion's Club Extended Family Program has been suspended due to insurance and liability issues. For further information, please contact: Eileen Mandell, Lions Club Outreach Coordinator, **914-328-8589**; www.faf.org.

Info Hotline: 866-652-7474 • www.nj.gov/wtc

Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families

National Commission on Terrorist Attacks

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (better known as the 9/11 Commission), created in November 2002, is scheduled to make a report to the nation in May 2004. It will be holding open hearings every month. The schedule and hearing sites are as follows:

- November 19** Hearing (NJ - Drew University in Madison): Emergency Response
- December 8** Hearing (DC): Security and Liberty
- January 5** Hearing (DC): NORAD/FAA
- January 26-27** Hearing (DC): Borders and Transportation
- February 10-12** Hearing (DC): Law Enforcement, Intelligence, and Homeland Security Inside the U.S.
- February 23-24** Hearing (DC): Safe Havens and Permissive Environments
- March 22-25** Hearing (DC): The War on Terrorism and America's International Policies
- April 28-29** Hearing (DC): September 11th

For more information, including the Commission's interim reports, the latest of which was issued September 23, 2003, please visit www.9-11commission.gov or email the family liaison, Ellie Hartz, at: familyliaison@9-11commission.gov.

In addition, the chair and co-chair of the Commission, former New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean and Lee H. Hamilton have issued the following open letter to families:

Dear Families of 9-11 Victims:

The mandate of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (better known as the 9-11 Commission) is to "make a full and complete accounting of the circumstances surrounding the attacks" and report on its "findings, conclusions, and recommendations for corrective measures that can be taken to prevent acts of terrorism." Signed into law by President Bush in November 2002, the Commission is required to report to the Nation by May 2004. Many family members, especially those of the Family Steering Committee, were instrumental in the creation of this Commission. The Commission is dedicated to working on behalf of the safety and security of the American people and the thousands of families who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001. As chair and vice chair, we hope to reach out to as many family members as possible, both directly and through the Commission's family liaisons—Ellie Hartz and Emily Walker. Ellie Hartz is a family member herself whose husband, John, worked for Fiduciary Trust on the 92nd Floor of the South Tower. Emily Walker was working in World Trade Center 7 on September 11, 2001. She is a survivor, who, in addition to serving as a family liaison, is a member of the team investigating the immediate response to the attacks in New York City and the Pentagon. Emily and Ellie are available to provide information about the Commission's progress, answer any questions that you may have, and relay your input to the Commission and its staff. Both are based at the Commission's New York Office, which is located in lower Manhattan. You may reach them through our toll-free number 866-862-0556 or via email at familyliaison@9-11commission.gov. We also encourage you to visit our Web site—www.9-11commission.gov—which includes a section designed especially for family members. In addition to general information about the Commission, the site features announcements, hearing transcripts, and archived video for all of the Commission's public events. We want to assure you that the Commission is committed to finding answers to your questions, and making recommendations to help prevent another terrorist attack. The Commission's work does not end with its final report; we will work actively to put its recommendations into effect. This will be a very challenging task, and we welcome your support.

Very sincerely,
 Thomas H. Kean
 Lee H. Hamilton

Survey

The National Center for Victims of Crime is conducting a survey regarding the legislation which has been introduced in Congress to extend the deadline for filing a claim with the Victim Compensation Fund to December 31, 2004. The Center would like to determine whether victims support this proposal. They are asking that you email them at jferguson@ncvc.org and let them know your position. You are encouraged to explain your reasons. You may vote, read the emails sent to date and see a tally of how many families are for or against the extension by going to: http://ncvcplus.microportals.net/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB_Survey179 If you cannot access this link, go to www.ncvc.org and choose the link on the top of the page.

Healthcare Questionnaire

A second healthcare questionnaire has been sent to 9/11 families seeking information on which to base a unique group health plan limited to their membership. The sponsors urge you to supply the information requested regardless of whether your loved one's employer is still paying for your healthcare. The members of the group health plan would include families that have lost their healthcare as well as those now paying COBRA.

The sponsors have had several meetings with a potential provider of the group health plan. The plan they have been discussing will be "open ended" which means that once your current benefits or funding cease, you will be able to join this group plan immediately.

The sponsors are also meeting with several charities to seek funding which will lower the premiums families would pay for this insurance. Currently, the estimated monthly cost for family coverage under the proposed group plan could be \$400 to \$600 lower than other plans available to families.

Thus, it is very important to return the Questionnaire (no matter when your coverage or funding ends) in order for the sponsors to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of families who would be interested.

If you have not received the questionnaire, you are asked to contact: Elizabeth Mattson: or Kevin Duffy: 973-777-7958; kduffy@catholiccharities

Halloween Night

Liberty Science Center has invited families and employees of the Family Advocate Program to Liberty Science Center as its special guests for the Center's Halloween Night celebration. This will be the second year the Center will share its customary member-only event.

The event takes place from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. October 30, 2003. There will be Halloween demonstrations and activities; films in the IMAX theater (tickets can be purchased upon arrival for \$2.50), and opportunities for kids to "earn" candy by performing various levels of activities. A Halloween Costume Parade will bring the evening to a close.

Getting to Liberty Science Center:

Visit the website, and click the link for "Directions" on the left of the screen. General directions are there, as well as public transportation options; there is also a link

for "customized driving directions" under the heading "Detailed Driving Directions from anywhere."

Dress Code:

Everyone is encouraged to wear costumes, but it is not mandatory. Most of the staff, kids, and many adults come in costume.

Check-in:

There is no official "check-in" however, if you want some direction, there will be a table near the main doors where you can pick up event flyers explaining the Activities, Demonstrations, and Candy Games.

Candy Games:

The Center creates activities for children to earn candy. At specific locations in the building, children who attempt one of the hands-on activities earn a small reward. Larger rewards are given to children who complete a more complicated activity - typically one that requires children to visit different parts of the building to complete a puzzle.

The Liberty Science Center offers the largest IMAX® Dome Theater in North America, a 3-D laser theater, hundreds of interactive exhibits and programs, traveling science programs, electronic field trips, and volunteer initiatives. In all of its efforts, it strives to encourage greater global harmony and promote the peaceful, responsible use of science and technology by uniting fun and education.

If you have questions, please contact:

Michael McLaughlin
*Development Coordinator,
Individual Giving & Membership*
Liberty Science Center

251 Phillip Street
Liberty State Park
Jersey City, NJ 07305-4600

mmclaughlin@lsc.org
201-451-0006 ext. 439

NJFAM Update

New Jersey Family Advocate Management Inc. (NJFAM) is back on the Internet! The web address is www.njfam.org. This is a temporary address, and NJFAM will be posting a permanent page shortly. In the meantime, NJFAM will update its page regularly to keep you current on services still available, various resources, deadlines and other 9-11 related information.

There are presently 618 families registered with the Family Advocate Program (FAP) who continue to receive the infor-

mation published on the webpage from their assigned Advocate. If you have not registered with the FAP and would like to have an Advocate assigned to you, please call Maureen Scanlon, FAP Program Director at **866-652-7474**.

If you read about any projects in this Newsletter that you would like to participate in, your advocate is always available to assist you. As you know, NJFAM will NOT release any confidential information to anyone at anytime without your signed consent.

NJFAM would like to remind you of a few deadlines:

- ◆ the Victim Compensation Fund filing deadline is **December 22, 2003** (please see related article on page 1);
- ◆ **January 31, 2004** is the enrollment deadline for the Ongoing Recovery Program for displaced workers which is funded by the September 11th Fund. For more information, please call **866-652-7474** and ask for Pat Dunphy.

Changing Your Mailing Address?

Recently, the Post Office has returned several newsletters due to incorrectly addressed envelopes. If you have moved since registering with the Family Assistance Center in September 2001, please notify the Governor's Office of Recovery and Victim Assistance at **609-777-1248** to ensure correct delivery of all future mailings. Thank you!

Port Authority Transcripts

A court has ordered the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to release transcripts of calls from people working on the top floors of the World Trade Center during the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks. The transcripts also include calls from relatives seeking information about family members and emergency response transmissions before the towers collapsed.

If you are a next of kin, you may obtain a user name and password from the New York City Medical Examiners office to access the Web site at www.panynj.gov/transcripts/index.php. To obtain a password to access the transcripts, please contact:

New York City Medical Examiners Office
212-447-7884

Seven days a week: 9AM - 5PM

Or, email George Gajewski at ggajewsk@panynj.gov.

Make A Difference Day

Make A Difference Day is a program designed to inspire and reward volunteers. It was created by the Points of Light Foundation and is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. The next event is Saturday, October 25, 2003.

Everyone can participate. In 2002, three million people volunteered on that day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns. A project can be large or small. Participants are encouraged to look around their community and see what needs to be done. The website also includes an Idea Generator to help you find a project idea to help your community. After participating on Oct. 25th, volunteers submit an entry form in order to be counted among the millions of volunteers and be considered for an award. This year's award winners will be featured in USA WEEKEND Magazine.

For more information, please visit:

<http://usaweekend.com/diffday/howto.html>

Family Information Resources Fairland Children's Festival

This event will be held Sunday, November 23, 2003 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Parsippany Hotel. It will be an opportunity to meet representatives of organizations offering help in the areas of healthcare, wellness, financial planning, vocational planning, legal services, and youth services. Sponsors include Jewish Family Services of Bergen County, the Mental Health Association of Morris County, Project Morris Nine Eleven and the American Red Cross September 11 Recovery Program. No pre-registration is required.

The Hotel is located at the intersection of Routes 80 and 287. From Route 80 South take Exit 42, or from Route 287 East take Exit 41.

Scholarship Assistance

The World Trade Center Scholarship Act (WTCSA) Board of Trustees has received 400 responses to its questionnaire asking families for vital information needed to plan for the post secondary educational needs of the dependent children and spouses of victims. The WTCSA Board has adopted procedures for eligibility and the application process which may be viewed at www.hessa.org along with several other sources of aid. For more information please contact: The Director of Financial Aid Services at 609-588-2349 or email gjoachim@hessa.org

In addition to the list of college scholarships for families of victims on the HESSA Web site and attached to the March edition of this newsletter available at: www.nj.gov/wtc. funding is now available from: www2.britishcouncil.org/911scholarships. The British Council scholarship covers funding for full time study leading to a degree at undergraduate or Master's level (or equivalent) in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Comfort Zone Camp

Comfort Zone Camp is offering a special camp exclusively for the children who lost a parent or close relative in the September 11 attacks. The weekend camp will be held October 24th-26th in Blairstown, NJ. The weekend camp is free of charge and transportation can be provided also at no charge. Accommodations will be available nearby for parents or caregivers if needed.

One of the camp's co-founders, Lynne Hughes, who lost both parents by the age of 12, believes that camp is an important part of the healing process, a way to come together in a fun and safe environment and be able to talk to others who have experienced the same tragedy.

The camp will feature games, sharing memories and creating special arts and crafts. During the weekend camps, children are matched one-to-one with adult "big buddies" who serve as their "anchors" for the weekend. At the camp's conclusion, the children and their parents will participate in a closing ceremony to honor lost loved ones.

Comfort Zone Camp, a non-profit organization, is fully funded by corporate and private donations, and it is staffed by trained grief counselors. Since the September 11th Terrorist Attacks, Comfort Zone Camp has hosted eleven camps in the New York metro area.

For registration information, call 866-488-5679 or visit www.comfortzonecamp.org.

Children's Workshop

Turning Negatives into Positives (TNP) is a workshop for children affected by the September 11th, 2001 Terrorist Attacks on the World Trade Center which uses photography to help children express themselves. TNP is an adaptation/application of Wendy Ewald's *Literacy Through Photography Program*, Duke University (<http://cfs.aas.duke.edu/ltpl/>). TNP will introduce children to photography as a means of visualizing self-care and growth promoting thoughts and actions. Its purpose is to facilitate healing strategies in response to experiences that have transformed their lives. Children will also learn how experiences and emotions, thoughts and behaviors are connected. Through workshop activities they will also learn the language of self-expression.

The next four workshops will be held November 8, 15, 22 and December 6, 2003 at Saint Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, 306 Morris Avenue, Summit NJ.

Space is limited to 12 children per workshop. To register, please call Paige Panzner and Families of September 11 at 212-575-1878 or e-mail them at ppanzner@familiesofseptember11.org

Traumatic Grief Survey

The New York State Psychiatric Institute, the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the Department of Veteran Affairs, Boston Healthcare System are collaborating to conduct a survey to understand better how best to respond to the needs of persons who have lost a loved one as a result of a traumatic event, as so many did on September 11, 2001.

The nation-wide, five-year longitudinal study is a state-of-the-art Internet based study of traumatic grief which is often overlooked by policy makers and researchers. The website has useful and updated links to treatment resources and helpful sites for those who are in need and wish to pursue information about therapeutic interventions.

The surveyors state that all information gathered in the Grief Study is confidential and secure and that all methodologies used have been approved by the standards of the Institutional Review Boards of both the New York State Psychiatric

Institute and Boston University.

The National Center for Post Traumatic Stress and the New York State Psychiatric Institute have both provided expert guidance and support in the development and implementation of this survey.

In conjunction with the survey, complimentary programs in treatment of traumatic grief and in the training of clinicians in the treatment of traumatic grief are being offered through the Mental Health Association of New York and the Trauma Studies and Services Unit at New York State Psychiatric Institute.

The survey should take less than an hour on the web to complete. You can also find treatment resources and helpful links on the home page.

If you would like to participate, please log on to: www.9-11survey.org.

For more information, please call Gretchen Seirmarco, R.N., C.S., Project Coordinator, or Principal Investigators: Yuval Neria, Ph.D., Brett Litz, Ph.D., Randall Marshall, M.D.; 212-543-5367.

Moussaoui Case Update

Judge Leonie M. Brinkema of the Federal District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, has ruled that federal prosecutors cannot make any allegations that Zacarias Moussaoui was linked to the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. In addition, Judge Brinkema also barred the government from seeking the death penalty for Moussaoui.

Judge Brinkema was responding to the federal government's refusal to obey her order to allow the defense to have access to captured members of Al Qaeda. In her opinion, Judge Brinkema stated, "It would simply be unfair to require Moussaoui to defend against such prejudicial accusations while being denied the ability to present testimony from witnesses who could assist him in contradicting those accusations."

The ruling was a setback to the federal government's case since it had been expecting a dismissal of the indictment for its failure to follow the Judge's order. Prosecutors will immediately appeal the Judge's current ruling on barring the allegation that Moussaoui was linked to the attacks and preventing the government from seeking a death sentence.

For more information, visit: <http://notablecases.vaed.uscourts.gov>.

New Jersey Counter-Terrorism Tip Line

Governor James E. McGreevey is urging citizens to report suspicious behavior related to terrorism to a statewide telephone tip line. Public Service Announcements are on the air advising that, while government is working hard to keep New Jerseyans safe and the State is measurably safer than it was a year ago, government can't do it alone. If you see something suspicious, report it. Call toll-free at **1-866-4-SAFE-NJ**. The Attorney General's Office of Counter-Terrorism is coordinating this effort.

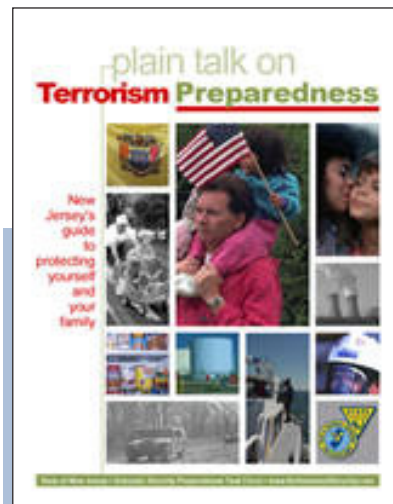
Date to Remember

❖ December 22, 2003

Last day to file a claim with the federal Victim Compensation Fund.

See article on page one.

Available Online



New Jersey's guide to protecting yourself and your family

For up-to-the-minute information, resources and to learn what New Jersey is doing to protect its citizens, visit:

NJHomelandSecurity.com

Family Assistance Update

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