New Jersey Family Assistance



Update

October 3, 2002

Governor McGreevey Creates WTC Memorial Committee

Governor James E. McGreevey has signed Executive Order 29 to create a Family and Survivor Memorial Committee made up of adult family member volunteers and other interested parties who lost loved ones or survived the September 11, 2001 attacks. The Committee will be coordinated by an Administrative Director, to be chosen by the Governor's Office of Recovery and Victim Assistance (ORVA). It will assist the Memorial Commission created by Executive Order 134 (2001) in reviewing and developing suggestions, plans and designs for a suitable Memorial and for the memorial walls created at the Family Assistance Center. The Committee will be able to utilize resources from any State agency necessary to accomplish its mission.

The Executive Order also creates a fund within New Jersey Family Advocate Management, Inc. to provide resources necessary to create the Memorial and to preserve the memorial walls.

New Jersey Family Advocate Management, Inc.

NJFAM is pleased to announce that Joanne Gerow has become its new Executive Director replacing Carolann Kane-Cavaiola, who has been appointed by Governor McGreevey to serve as Assistant Commissioner of Health for the Division of Addiction Services. NJFAM extends is heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Cavaiola as well as its gratitude for her valuable guidance during its formative period.

Ms. Gerow is not new to NJFAM. She formerly served as its Deputy Executive Director and has already made important contributions to the non-profit. Ms. Gerow holds a Master Degree in Business Administration and has previously spent nine years as Director of Volunteer Services at JFK Medical Center. Prior to that, Ms. Gerow was the corporate planner for JFK Health Systems, the parent company of JFK Medical Center.

Camp Sunshine Sponsors 'Ray of Hope" Camp for Families of September 11 Victims

Camp Sunshine is sponsoring "Ray of Hope Camp" from October 12-16 for children and families who lost loved ones in the September11 Attacks. The free camp, is located in Casco, Maine. Its campus, on Sebago Lake, includes housing for 40 families, and offers amenities for all age groups and interests, including boating, fishing, swimming, archery and paddle boats to a computer lab and medical clinic as well as arts and crafts. Counseling sessions and workshops will be held each day to give adults and children the chance to share their experiences with others facing similar losses.

The camp is funded by Toys "R" Us Children's Fund, Inc. and The J.P. Morgan

The camp is funded by Toys ^aR" Us Children's Fund, Inc. and The J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation. Since 1984, it has offered a retreat for children with life threatening illnesses and their families. Transportation will also be provided without charge.

For an application log onto www.campsunshine.org/sept11.htm or call (207) 655-3800. Applications should be completed and mailed as soon as possible as the camp has a limited capacity.



Memorial Walls Update

The "9.11 NJ: Response and Reflection" exhibit of the memorial walls has moved to Fairleigh Dickinson University. The exhibit is located in the Edward Williams Building, 150 Kotte Place, Hackensack, and will remain there through December 31st. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information, please call 201-692-7028.

Commemorative Credentials

ORVA has a limited number of the credentials issued by New York City for the Commemorative ceremony held at Ground Zero on September 11. The credentials consist of two ribbons, white superimposed on red, fastened by a US Flag pin. If you did not attend the event and would like to obtain a credential as a memento, please call ORVA at 609 777-1248.

Reminders:

Horizon Cares Victims' Relief Fund

New Jersey residents whose health care coverage was affected due to the loss of a family member in the September 11 Attacks may be eligible for financial assistance to continue medical and/or prescription coverage through the Horizon Cares Victims Relief Fund created by Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey. Applications to the Fund require a death certificate, cur-rent COBRA notice or health insur-ance premium bill, and proof of the victim's final residence. For infor-mation and an application, call 800 224-1234, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Gift of New York

- ♦ Giants Season Ticket holders have been asked to donate both preseason and season tickets to The Gift of New York's program which provides free access to over 170 theatrical, artistic, cultural, sports and live entertainment venues in New York and New Jersey. To find out if tickets to a game you want to attend are available, please call 800-528-1499. Families will be able to make reser-vations for up to four (4) tickets for one preseason game and one regular season game. Because of the random nature of the ticket donations, available seats may not be next to each other.
- ◆ Halloween Night, October 30, at the Liberty Science Center will be free to families with the Gift of New York pass card. It will include a science scavenger hunt, a costume parade and candy rewards for discovering various exhibits around the science halls.

Info Hotline: 877-688-5268 • www.nj.gov/wtc

Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families

Update October 3, 2002

The Family Rooms

The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Port Authority) have created two areas for the families to observe the site in quiet contemplation - The One Liberty Plaza Family Room, located on the 20th floor of One Liberty Plaza, which overlooks the World Trade Center Site, and the Liberty Street Family Room, on Liberty Street, which is located at the World Trade Center Site. Both of these areas provide a private, peaceful setting for the families. Each area has very similar procedures, however, they do differ. The procedures and hours of operation have been created to ensure your privacy and safety.

1. The One Liberty Plaza Family **Room**, located on the 20th Floor of One Liberty Plaza, was established in early April in response to a request by the families for a private, elevated indoor area overlooking the World Trade Center site. The Family Room contains comfortable couches and a children's play area with toys, books etc. The Family Room replaced the outdoor viewing area created for the families after September 11th, which was located on the corner of Liberty and West Streets. The Family Room also contains personal items and photographs that were part of the outdoor viewing area created for the families after September 11th. Families continue to bring pictures, poems, cards and other personal items to the room.

The One Liberty Plaza Family Room is staffed by the Port Authority Police Department 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Families should enter the building using the Liberty Street entrance during regular business hours (Monday-Friday 9-5) and through the Broadway entrance off-hours

(after 5:00 p.m. week nights, Saturday, Sunday and holidays). Families should go to the security desk and indicate they would like to visit the Family Room. Families will need to provide security with the Medical Examiners Family Identification Card (please see below for more information on the Family ID Card) or the P or T number. If you were not assigned a P or a T number and you don't have a Family ID Card you will need to provide additional background information relevant to your loved one. After you show photo identification you will be given a visitor pass that is valid for that day. You are asked to where this pass at all times while you are in the building.

Family members are allowed to bring guests. However, they ask that you limit the number to one or two if possible. For safety reasons, the room holds only 30 people. If there are large groups of people expected to visit the Family Room, family members are asked to call the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit (CAU) at 212-788-7418 with the group's contact name, date, time and group size at least one day in advance. They also request that you provide the CAU with a list of family members in advance of your visit to speed up the admission process.

2. The Liberty Street Family Room, located on Liberty Street directly at the World Trade Center site (south side), was created in September 2002 in response to a request by the families for an on-site viewing location. The Liberty Street Family Room allows family members to view the World Trade Center Site from Liberty Street. It is in a secured area guarded by the Port Authority Police Department and a private security guard. The Liberty Street Family Room is open 7-days a week from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. (please

note: it is not open 24 hours). Families must enter at Washington and Liberty Streets. The Liberty Street Family Room accommodates up to 15 people. If the room is filled to capacity, there is an outside viewing area next to the building, however, it is a shared common area. Families may bring pictures, poems, cards and other personal items to the room.

The same procedures will be followed to gain entry. Families should enter the security gate at Washington and Liberty Streets and indicate they are a family member and would like to visit the Family Room. Families will need to provide the Port Authority Police Officer or the security guard with the Medical Examiners Family ID Card or the P or T number. If you don't have a Family ID Card or were not assigned a P or a T number you will need will to provide additional background information relevant to your loved one. After you show photo-id you will be admitted.

If there are large groups of people expected to visit the Liberty Street Family Room, you are asked to contact Davella May at the Port Authority at 212-435-5552 or by email at *dmay@panynj.gov* any day during the week to make arrangements (please note: this is a different number from the One Liberty Plaza Family Room).

Medical Examiner's Family Identification Cards - The Medical Examiner's Office is now issuing Identification Cards to Family Members. If you would like to schedule an appointment to receive one, please contact the Medical Examiner's office at 212-447-7884 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. seven days a week.

If you have any questions, please contact Tara Snow of the LMDC either by email at *tsnow@empire.state.ny.us* or by calling 212-962-2300.

Family Advocate Program Update

As of September 20, 2002, 500 families have registered with New Jersey's Family Advocate Program (FAP) and been assigned individual advocates, according to New Jersey Family Advocate Management, Inc.

The FAP, created by Governor James E. McGreevey, provides individual advocates for families who lost loved ones and for individuals who were physically injured in the September 11th Attacks. It is designed to meet long term needs through individual attention by experienced, trained advocates who assist families in gaining hassle-free access to resources, services, benefits and other programs particularly in the areas of charitable and private benefits, legal, financial and mental health services, scholarship programs, job training and skill enhancement programs.

If you have not registered for an Advocate and would like to, please call 877 688-5268.

Mental Health Benefits

The September 11th Fund ("the Fund") and the American Red Cross ("ARC") will provide a "seamless" mental health benefit to people directly affected by the September 11th attacks for the next five years through a toll free number: 800 LIFENET. The Fund will pay up to \$3,000 annually for mental health treatment for those who meet the program's eligibility criteria. The ARC will cover up to 24 sessions of psychotherapy, pay \$500 toward the cost of psychiatric medications and pay for up to 30 days of psychiatric care in a hospital. The Mental Health Association of New York City will determine eligibility based on criteria established by the two charities. These funds will supplement private insurance for those with coverage so as not to duplicate sources of payment. The joint program is intended to remove barriers that keep trauma survivors from seeking treatment.

Red Cross Travel Reimbursement

To obtain reimbursement for travel to September 11th commemorative services, call the Red Cross Travel Center at 1-877-746-4987 to register. A packet of forms and instructions will will be mailed to you.

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation

Families wishing to receive current information on the plans and activities of the LMDC can visit **www.renewnyc.com**.

Family Assistance Update

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