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State Chamber Launches Disaster Fund for the Children of New Jersey Acting Governor Urges All to Help

Brian Maher, Chairman of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and CEO of Maher Terminals announced the formation of the "Disaster Fund for Children of New Jersey" to provide immediate resources to children and their families who have been affected by the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

The initial gift of \$100,000 has come from Prudential Financial employee donations and matching funds from The Prudential Foundation. The fund can now accept contributions from corporations, businesses and citizens who want to assist children who have lost parents or loved ones in the terrorist attacks. The Fund is being established in partnership with the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce and the New Jersey Department of Education. It will be administered by the Chamber's not-for-profit foundation.

"I would like to thank Prudential Financial and its employees for making this substantial first contribution to the Disaster Fund for Children," said Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco. "I hope that every New Jerseyan who is able will contribute to this fund.

As New Jersey families continue to cope with the aftermath of the September 11 attack, this fund will provide another source to help them meet financial needs."

"Prudential employees have always responded with great generosity during times of crisis. I'm pleased that The Prudential Foundation could match our employees' contributions to this Fund, which we believe will make a real difference in the lives of the youngest victims of this horrible attack," said Arthur F. Ryan, Chairman and CEO, Prudential Financial.

"This tragedy has had a tremendous impact on all New Jersey residents, especially our children," said Brian Maher, Chairman of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and CEO of Maher Terminals. "We expect that the funds will be disbursed quickly and directly to families and children to help them meet their immediate and extended financial needs."

"We're working hard with FEMA, our legislature, and the charitable community to make sure that families of those affected by this tragedy have access to any resources they need to meet their obligations. This fund, with its focus on children, will be very helpful toward that end," said Lillian Borrone, who was appointed by DiFrancesco as Coordinator of the newly created Office of Recovery and Victim Assistance.

In addition to the establishment of this Fund, New Jersey will be receiving \$1.5 million in federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education for grants that will be distributed by the N. J. Department of Education to schools affected by this tragedy. The funds are from Project SERV (School Emergency Response to Violence) and will provide reimbursement of education-related services, such as counseling, emergency transportation and other forms of care, in school districts in which the learning environment has been disrupted.

Gifts to the Fund are tax deductible, and every dollar contributed will support the needs of children affected by this tragedy. Donations to the fund can be made by sending checks or money orders to:

Disaster Fund for Children of NJ
c/o New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce Foundation

216 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

For further information on how your donation can help, or to make a gift by charge card, please call (609) 989-7888, extension 126.