



### Memorial Walls Update

Governor James E. McGreevey is inviting Family members to a reception marking the opening of the latest exhibit of the Memorial Walls and Kiosks on June 15, 2002 at 12 noon at the Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan. As you know, the walls were created by family members and volunteer workers at the Family Assistance Center in Jersey City, and supplemented during the recent "9.11 NJ: Response and Reflection" exhibit at the State Museum in Trenton. They will be on display at the Monmouth County Library through September 15, 2002, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 8:45 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. and Sunday, September 9, 1:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Please call (732) 869-2255 for directions.

### Family Advocate Program Update

More than 397 individuals and families have signed on to New Jersey's Family Advocate Program (FAP), according to Carolann Kane-Cavaola, Executive Director of 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 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks.

According to Ms. Kane-Cavaola, 27 advocates from 12 different agencies across the State are being assigned to assist families in gaining hassle-free access to resources, including charitable and private benefits, legal, financial and mental health services, scholarship programs, job training and skill enhancement programs. Advocates are receiving specialized training in accessing the benefits available to families. To date, two specialized training programs have been held for advocates and more are planned for the future.

Individuals eligible to sign up for the FAP may do so by calling 877-688-5268, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Visits to the Recovery Site Scheduled

Visits to the Recovery Site on Staten Island are scheduled every other Wednesday. Approximately ten family members may sign up for each trip. The visits have been arranged by the New York Mayor's Offices of Community Assistance and Emergency Management. Family members meet at 9:00 a.m. at 51 Chambers Street. Members of the Mayor's staff accompany them on a 90 minute visit to the Medical Examiner's Office where families can voice their questions and concerns. From the Medical Examiner's Office, the

group proceeds to the Staten Island recovery site where families have another 90 minutes to observe and ask questions. A final 90 minute segment is spent at the City's Department of Design and Construction to discuss issues and questions. To reserve a spot, email Jennie Farrell of "Give Your Voice" at [Jennie@OptOnline.net](mailto:Jennie@OptOnline.net) and write "Visitations" as the subject of your message.

If you have a question about personal effects of a victim, call the Property Clerk Division of the Medical Examiner's Office at (212) 646-5905.

### Red Cross Family Gift Three

The Red Cross has announced that it will begin the process of implementing the third installment of the Family Gift program, which will cover unmet essential expenses for those who are eligible for a full year of assistance. The purpose of Family Gift, as outlined in the Mitchell Plan, is to meet the essential unmet needs of those who were financially interdependent or dependent upon an individual who was killed in the attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup> or severely injured in the attacks.

Cases are currently being reviewed to ensure that the Red Cross has documentation of each household's needs. Those family members who have demonstrated financial dependence on their lost family member or on a family member who was hospitalized as a result of a physical injury on September 11<sup>th</sup> will receive an application for the final payment through the Family Gift program. An American Red Cross Family Support Specialist (FSS) will contact family members to alert them of the mailing, which will include application instructions. The FSS will then be available to assist individuals with the application process.

As the case review process is staged, eligible family members will receive their applications at different times. If

you, or someone with whom you are working, can demonstrate financial interdependence or dependence on a family member who was killed or hospitalized because of severe injuries and have essential unmet needs, but have not received an application packet by June 30, you can call one of the Red Cross's field offices:

- ❖ Englewood: (201) 568-8789; serving Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Essex and Sussex Counties
- ❖ Tinton Falls: (732) 493-9100; serving Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May Counties
- ❖ New Brunswick: (732) 652-3210; serving all other Counties.

Ask for the Long Term Recovery office at each site. BUT the Red Cross asks that you **do not call before June 30 if you have not received an application packet**. Field Office staff will only have information available regarding individuals who have been called and who have received an application packet. After June 30<sup>th</sup>, staff will be able to obtain information regarding other cases.

### The NJFAM Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of New Jersey Family Advocate Management, Inc. (NJFAM), the non-profit corporation Governor James E. McGreevey directed be established to oversee the Family Advocate Program, has been fully constituted and consists of the following:

- ❖ Eric B. Shuffler - Coordinator Office of Recovery and Victim Assistance
- ❖ Albert G. Kroll, Commissioner, Department of Labor
- ❖ Gwendolyn L. Harris, Commissioner, Department of Human Services
- ❖ Clifton R. Lacy, M.D. Commissioner Department of Health and Senior Services
- ❖ James C. Kellogg, President Community Foundation of New Jersey
- ❖ Robert J. Hurst, Vice Chairman Goldman Sachs Group
- ❖ Joan Verplanck, President New Jersey Chamber of Commerce

**Family Assistance Center Update**  
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**Info Hotline: 877-688-5268 • [www.nj.gov](http://www.nj.gov)**

**Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families**

## Duplicate Death Certificates

The Office of Vital Records in the New York City Department of Health is the place to obtain copies of death certificates. You may apply by mail or in person.

You will need to supply information including your relationship to the deceased along with a copy of your signed, valid photo identification; the full name of the deceased as listed on the original death certificate and his or her gender; the date and place of death; and the purpose for which you will be using the copy. In addition, you will need to send a \$15 check or money order payable to the NYC Department of Health and a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

You may apply by including the information in a letter or by obtaining an application online at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/vr/vrdeath.html>. The address is Office of Vital Records, 125 Worth Street, Box 4, Room 133, New York, NY 10013. The phone number is (212) 788-4518.

Generally, copies are not available immediately, but are mailed within one to two weeks. Clearly noting that your request is WTC related should expedite the matter.

## Washington D.C. Rally to Support Inquiry into 9/11 Government Failures

Supporters of a bill to study the reasons for government's failure to anticipate the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks will hold a rally on June 11, 2002 at 11:00 in Washington D.C. on the steps of the Capitol. Speakers in support of the bill (S.1867) will be Senators Lieberman (D-CT), McCain (R-AZ), Corzine (D-NJ), Torricelli (D-NJ); Congressmen Rush Holt; and Bob Monetti (Pan Am 103). The bill, "To Establish the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States" was introduced by Senators Lieberman and McCain and is co-sponsored by Senator Torricelli. It authorizes the appointment of a blue-ribbon commission to investigate the intelligence, immigration, and aviation security failures that led to the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks. The bill has been reported out of committee by unanimous vote, but it has few co-sponsors, and the Bush Administration is expected to oppose it.

Email [rallynow2002@hotmail.com](mailto:rallynow2002@hotmail.com) to sign up or call (732) 390-6679. Buses to the event from New Jersey will be available.

## Investment Advice and Implementation:

Merrill Lynch is offering families of victims free financial planning seminars and free, individual financial plans developed by qualified financial advisors. The

## Governor McGreevey Thanks Corporate Donors for Support of New Jersey's Family Advocate Program

Governor James E. McGreevey has publicly thanked a group of New Jersey businesses for their generosity in supporting the establishment of New Jersey Family Advocate Management, Inc. (NJFAM).

The businesses have donated cash, software, legal services, accounting services, and hardware to get the State's Family Advocate Program underway. The Governor's letter noted that the program would not be possible "without the commitment and partnership of the public, private and non-profit sectors" and thanked the businesses for their "generosity, decency and compassion." Among the New Jersey firms receiving the Governor's thanks are: Public Service Electric and Gas; New Jersey Natural Gas, Inc.; Merrill Lynch; Verizon; American Express; Microsoft; the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer in Woodbridge and the accounting firm of Traphagen and Traphagen in Oradell.

first seminar will be held June 12 from 10 a.m to 12 noon at Merrill Lynch's office, 800 Scudders Mill Rd., Plainsboro, NJ. A second seminar will be announced at a later date. To register and get directions, call New Jersey Family Advocate Management, Inc. (NJFAM) at (732) 869-2255.

The financial plans Merrill Lynch is offering are free of charge and entail no obligation. This part of the process hopes to achieve a long-term relationship between the advisor and the client. The advisors will work one-on-one with families to help them assess their financial needs now and in the future. Together, they will develop a financial plan that covers how to invest and allocate the money they may receive from the Federal Government. Financial advisors will recommend the full range of investment options, including insurance and other protection products, most appropriate for each family's situation. After developing a financial plan, with the help of a financial advisor, the family can decide how to invest its money and which family protection products to purchase.

Merrill Lynch selected individual advisors to work with families who are experienced professionals and who volunteered to participate in the program. The advisors have also undergone training specific to the emotional and financial issues being faced by those affected by the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

You may set up an interview with a financial advisor either through your Family Advocate or directly by calling Caroline Gundeck at Merrill Lynch: 800 582-8046.

## Governor's Virtual Summer Camp for Children of Victims

The Governor's Office of Volunteerism will implement a "virtual camp" this summer to provide families of World Trade Center victims alternatives to traditional, "sleep away" camp by offering free admission to daily events in local neighborhoods. This effort will be coordinated with The Gift of New York, a non-

profit organization which has organized free access to over 170 theatrical, artistic, cultural, sports and live entertainment venues in New York and New Jersey.

You may have already received information from the Gift of New York on its other offerings along with a specially encoded access pass and authorization to use a secure Web site: [www.TheGiftofNewYork.org](http://www.TheGiftofNewYork.org). If you do not have one of these passes, you can obtain one by calling 800-528-1499. Each pass entitles up to five people access at all participating venues through April 2003. Currently available are 170 venues, which include most of the area's entertainment, cultural and sporting events. Virtual camp offerings will be available in July.

## Mortgage and Rental Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that it will reevaluate applications for mortgage and rental assistance that have been previously rejected. If you have already applied for this type of assistance and were denied, you do not need to reapply. However, if you have not and would like to, the following steps must be followed:

1. Register with FEMA at 1-800-462-9092; (TTY: 800-462-7585);
2. Complete the Mortgage and Rental Assistance (MRA) application that will be sent to you after you register and submit it by September 30, 2002. For help completing the MRA, call 1-800-525-0321; (TTY: 1-800-462-7585), or visit FEMA's Applicant Assistant Service Center, at 141 Worth Street (corner of Center) in New York.

Among the guidelines you will need to meet are evidence of a 25% drop in household income and late payment of your rent or mortgage due to the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks.

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