



MA 9/11 Fund Evening Hours

In direct response to the concerns articulated in the 2006 Needs Survey, the MA 9/11 Fund will provide "Walk-In" hours each week for family members to drop by the offices of the Fund to ask questions, receive support and share concerns. Diane Nealon will post these hours for the coming months on our new web that you can find using the following link: <http://www.massfund.org/mentalhealthservices.html>

For those without internet access, please call Diane for the most up-to-date schedule of walk-in hours. If the hours posted do not fit your needs, or if you prefer to meet in a different location, please do not hesitate to call Diane to arrange a more convenient appointment time and location.

For the month of May, 2006, the Walk-In Hours will be:

- Wednesday, May 17th from 4p-8p
- Monday, May 22nd from 4p-8p
- Tuesday, May 30th from 4p-8p

Important Information about the Health Care Support Program

The Health Care Support Program, detailed in previous newsletters and posted on our web page (<http://www.massfund.org/healthcaresupportprogram.html>) has undergone two changes recently that you should be aware of.

- Taxable income limits

The annual taxable income limit for individuals has been raised to \$94,200 and the total family taxable income ceiling has been capped at \$188,400.

- Residency requirement

The residency requirement has been significantly changed to that any family/individual otherwise eligible has only to have established primary legal residence in MA, NH or RI for the previous twelve months prior to beginning the Health Care Support Program.

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In memoriam

Loretta W. Kowal

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David Hastings

Board of Directors Meetings
May 17, 2006
And
July 17, 2006
Dinner at 5:30 PM
Meeting 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Both meetings will be held at
the Sheraton Newton Hotel

We Remember Box Party
Friday, May 26
Noon to 5:00 PM
75 Kneeland Street, Sixth Flr
Boston, MA

Community Support Groups
– Coffee Connections &
Coping
Scheduled for May 24, 2006
6:30pm – 8:30pm at the MA
9/11 Fund Offices in Boston,
MA
Will not be held

2006 Needs Survey Drawing Winners

Everyone who responded to the 2006 Needs Assessment Survey was entered into a drawing for the first ten commemorative Massachusetts 9/11 Fund pins currently being designed. In the survey envelope, you received a card with a number on it. If you have one of the numbers below, please send that card to the Fund, marking your name and address on it clearly.

WINNERS: 31, 59, 82, 88, 116, 143, 162, 281, 291, 368

(Credit should be given to the website <http://www.randomizer.org/form.htm> used in generating the randomly selected raffle winners!)

Moussaoui Trial Concludes

As you know, the Moussaoui sentencing trial has ended. With this legal process over the support center developed for families at the Moakley Court House in Boston has been closed. We would like to thank the many community care providers who made it possible for the Fund to advocate successfully for the center and deliver upon our commitment in staffing it.

The Fund would like to take special notice at this time to acknowledge the continued efforts of our Social Work Coordinator, Ms. Diane Nealon, who coordinated and led the team every day that court was in session since March 2006. Her passion and compassion for the support of family members, and her collegial manner, working closely with the staff from all participating organizations who helped immensely, was an essential element of the Family Support Center.

● Gathering of Family Members and Support Team

We will be gathering as a group, family members who attended the trial and the staff who provided the support center, at a dinner to be held in the Westin Waltham Hotel Tuesday evening, May 23. All potential attendees should have received an email by now from the Fund. If you have not, please RSVP to Erica Cabag when you receive this newsletter.

● In Appreciation of our Family Support Center Colleagues

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund would like to acknowledge and thank the entire Community of Care for its support in pulling together resources for family members during the difficult and lengthy Moussaoui sentencing trial. In particular, Massachusetts families were very well served by the efforts of Senator Kennedy in advocating for a CCTV site in Boston, the staff of the United States Attorney's office, Catholic Charities and Boston Medical Center who worked tirelessly in the Family Support Room at the federal courthouse in Boston, and other members of the Community of Care who helped the Fund respond to this difficult process, including Children's Charter, the Department of Mental Health, the Good Grief Program, Adam Lesser and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance.

Staff Contact Information

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The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund in the Year 2011 . . .

A Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Directors was formed in March 2006 and began its work to prepare alternative plans for the future of the Massachusetts 9/11 Fund, Inc. The Fund's Board is committed to providing the support necessary to assist families in ways that will help them progress towards their individual futures, plan and achieve their goals, to honor the memories of those lost, and to ensure that the public remembers the lives lost not as an aggregate, but as individuals - who were violently deprived of their potential, their plans and their goals.

The strategic planning process also involves the Family Advisory Committee. The FAC, comprised of twelve family members (listed on the cover of this newsletter) has been meeting with the staff of the Fund to evaluate the work of the Strategic Planning Committee and to offer their comments and counsel. This process will continue with a target of July 17. On that evening, the Board of Directors is preparing to make a final set of decisions which will map the coming years and future plans of the Fund.

- How can I be involved in planning the Fund's future? After all, as a family member I have some stake in the organization.

There will be several community forums in May and again in June, to present the progress of the strategic plan work. At these forums, all family members are welcome. Your comments will be solicited at these forums. Your input will be taken into consideration in developing the final plan. In addition, we will be inviting all Board members and community care providers who have worked to support families.

- When will these community forums be scheduled?

At the May 11 meeting of the Family Advisory Committee, we will establish the dates, times and locations of these forums. The reason for two sets of forums in each of the two months is to provide input to the preliminary draft plan that the Board will vote on May 17, and then the final report from the Strategic Planning Committee which is due in June. Each forum will take place in a different city or town, varying on the day and time in the week, to allow for ease of transportation, and to encourage attendance.

- When can I read the draft plan?

The preliminary plan will be presented for Board review on May 17. As soon thereafter as the Board comments and decisions can be integrated into the document, it will be made available on the web and mailed to all family members.

- What are the possible outcomes of this plan?

The Strategic Planning Committee, the Family Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors are taking great care in following a detailed process of review and consideration of all alternatives. It is not possible at this point to limit or predict the outcome. All families should know that their interests and opinions are of value in preparing the best possible plan, and that by participating in the process, you will be able to make your voice heard.

Important Notices

America's Camp Enrolling for 5th Exciting Summer!

America's Camp is now enrolling boys and girls, ages 7 to 15, for its fifth summer in the beautiful Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts. The session will begin on Wednesday, August 16th and finish on Wednesday, August 23rd. This week-long, sleep-away camp is offered at no cost to eligible families. The campers have diverse backgrounds and interests, but share a common experience – they have all lost a parent or sibling in the 9/11 attacks or in the line of duty at any time as a firefighter or police officer. A mature, enthusiastic staff is thoroughly trained to ensure a positive, fun, supportive environment. Campers participate in a wide range of sports, crafts, water activities at the pool and lake, trips and special events. For information about the camp and enrollment, families should:

- Call the camp office at 1-800-548-6295
- E-mail director Andy Cole at andy@americascamp.org
- Visit the camp website at www.americascamp.org

Red Cross Reimbursement for Mental Health Care Scheduled for Closeout

The Red Cross has announced that it intends to close out its 9/11 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program (known to many as "LIFENET") in 2007. This program, among other things, provides reimbursement for uninsured costs incurred for up to 32 sessions of outpatient mental health counseling with a licensed provider. The program also offers limited reimbursement for psychiatric medications and inpatient psychiatric hospital stays. A complete description of program is available at www.9-11MentalHealth.org or by telephone at 1-800-LIFENET (1-800-543-3638). The deadline to **enroll** in this program is **January 2, 2007** (enrollment is completed by calling the 1-800-LIFENET number). The last date of service which will be reimbursed by this program is **December 31, 2007** and the last date to file a claim for reimbursable services is **March 31, 2008**.

Please note – this program does allow you to claim eligible uninsured mental health treatment costs retroactively back to 9/11/01. If you or anyone in your family is or was incurring out of pocket costs for mental health treatment since 9/11, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of this program before it ends. Family members will not be allowed to "carry" any unused portion of the benefit.

Register with Scholarship America - Register eligible dependents in one of the following ways: phone toll-free 1-877-862-0136, email to scholarships911@scholarshipamerica.org or visit their website www.scholarships911.org. If you experience any difficulty at all with the registration process, or have questions after contacting Scholarship America - please get in touch with us as soon as you can.

\$5,000 in Uninsured Health Costs Assistance from Twin Towers Orphans Fund – Twin Towers Orphans Fund provides up to \$5,000/year for uninsured physical health costs and uninsured mental health costs incurred by children who lost one or both parents on September 11th. Contact Twin Towers Orphan Fund at (661) 633-9076 or at <http://www.ttof.org/>.



Health Care Support Program - Please sign up by May 31, 2006

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts 9/11 Fund reminds all that we have a new program to help eligible families with some health care costs. The program, named the "Health Care Support Program", is now available.

What does the program cover? - Eligible individuals or families can choose from **one** of the following alternatives

- OPTION 1 - receive reimbursement for 50% of health and/or dental insurance premiums for a maximum of two years.
- OPTION 2 - receive reimbursement for up to \$2,500 per year for each of two years for out-of pocket deductibles, co-payments, or payments for professional health care services where your benefits have been exhausted. Costs submitted for reimbursement are not eligible for submittal to any other reimbursement program including LifeNet and all other 9/11-related funds and grants. If in doubt, contact Diane Nealon for any questions about eligibility for other health care support programs.

Program Length - Two Years

- The program will run for 24 consecutive months and can be started any time from 1/1/2006 through and including 5/31/2006. You may select the start date when you request consideration for eligibility.
- Each year you will select an option which will stay in force for twelve months once it is selected. You may change options only once thereafter - to affect the second year. Near the conclusion of month twelve, you can request a different option, which will go into effect on the first day of month 13 of the 24 month program.

Who is eligible? The program's current requirement is that you satisfy all of the following criteria. These criteria are subject to change given appropriate federal and state regulation and legislation:

- Relationship - You were impacted by the attacks of 9/11/01. "Impacted" is defined by one of the two following definitions:
 - You are related to an individual killed or injured in the September 11th terrorist attacks (relationship must be either as parent, spouse, child, sibling or domestic partner. This relationship does not had to have been one in which you were financially dependent upon the loved one who was killed or injured) **or**
 - You suffered personal injury or trauma as a direct result of being at the World Trade Center area (whether as a victim or a rescue worker)
- Residency - your legal primary residence for the past twelve months
 - You can provide documentation that your primary residence has been Massachusetts, New Hampshire or Rhode Island, and you have lived there for at least the past twelve months
- Income:
 - The annual taxable income for an individual (documented by a copy of your federal tax return) can not exceed \$94,200. For families, the annual taxable income cannot exceed \$188,400. Please note - this is a change from the original program design, necessary to comply with appropriate Internal Revenue Service advisories and regulations.

... Continued on the following page ...

How do I request an eligibility determination? - Families requesting eligibility need to send the following documents. These can be provided by mail, or by email using scanned documents in PDF format.

- a cover letter indicating
 - for persons related to a lost loved one(s)
 - the name(s) of the individual(s) requesting eligibility, their relationship to the loved one(s), and the name of the loved one(s).
 - for people who were directly injured or traumatized as a result of being at the World Trade Center site on 9/11/01
 - your name
 - a statement choosing which option you would like
 - Option 1 - insurance premium reimbursement **or**
 - Option 2 - out-of-pocket reimbursement
 - the start date you choose for your eligibility
 - any date from 1/1/2006 through and including 5/31/2006) to begin.
- a completed copy of your 2005 tax return (covering 1/1/05-12/31/05). Please only send the 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. We do not need any attachments or supplementary schedules. This will also serve as documentation of your current residency.
- a copy of documentation establishing the state of your residency for the past twelve months.
- for those persons related to a lost loved one, a copy of documentation supporting your relationship to your deceased loved one(s)

If you believe any of the above documentation is already on file at the Fund, please let us know. Duplicates are NOT necessary. We will respond promptly to all families requesting a decision on their eligibility for this program.

Please direct your email correspondence to david.hastings@massfund.org

The mailing address is:

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund, Inc.
Health Care Support Program
75 Kneeland Street - Sixth Floor
Boston, MA 02111-1901

What is the process for submitting paid bills for reimbursement once I am told I am eligible for this program?

Eligible families submit copies of paid bills (no more frequently than once per month, please) for reimbursement consideration. The mailing address to use is the same as immediately above.

The Remembrance Book

- Replacement Boxes

The replacement boxes for the "we remember" collection have been received by the Fund. The process was much longer than anyone had wished or anticipated, but the result is wonderful.

We are now preparing to mail out replacement boxes to everyone who has received a "we remember" set of the two volumes and the introductory book. To do so is a significant task. We also need to repackage the inventory of collections available for purchase. The entire project (mailing and repackaging) will entail handling 500 boxes and will take several people an afternoon.

We are inviting any family member or friend of the Fund who wishes to participate in the effort to join us. Please RSVP to Erica Cabag. Here are the details:

Date: May 26, 2006 (Friday)
Time: Noon to 5:00 PM
Location: Fund Offices at 75 Kneeland Street, Sixth Floor, Chinatown

You can participate for as short or as long as possible.

Lunch will be provided - see you then!

- Additional Layouts

Families who have not yet worked on a layout for their loved one are welcome to contact the fund and develop a lasting, custom-designed remembrance for inclusion in the "we remember" book.

Why did my May Newsletter Come in an Envelope?

We did try to keep the cost of mailing down by folding the newsletter and making the back page a "mailer". However, numerous copies have been returned, having been shredded by the mail-handling machines in the post office, so we have had to place the newsletters in an outer envelope. It costs a bit more, but you get a copy that has not been dog-eared by an electronic handling machine. It is still ready for mailing if you do wish to forward it on to a family member in another part of the country. You can also tell them about the website, where they can read the full copy in Adobe PDF format.

May 2006 Family Newsletter

www.massfund.org



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PLEASE FORWARD IF NECESSARY
