

A Farewell for the Mass 9/11 Fund Staff

Transition Notes

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The MassFund has seen a few changes over the last nine and a half years, and we've adjusted to them all with relative ease. Of course, with what we've all been through, adjusting to change has become second nature to most of us. But the most recent alteration with the fund is perhaps the most difficult for us to accept, as it means saying goodbye to people who've been there for us diligently and compassionately for the last 5 years. As we families have moved to a better place in our grief and have managed to sort through the mounds of paperwork and issues that have befuddled us over the years, our lessening needs have determined a necessary shift in the fund goals and operations. Once headed up by a paid staff of three full and part-time people, we are now a fund operating under the direction of the families through the Family Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors.

We have thanked our departing staff, Executive Director Diane Nealon and Administrative Coordinator Erica Cabag with a farewell dinner and a gift of the United We Stand license plates. Diane and Erica worked their way into our hearts, not only becoming a friend, but honorary members of our family. They listened to us, advocated for us, and advised us. They felt our grief and sadness, and celebrated with us when we had triumphs. Although saying goodbye to them and facing the idea of running this fund without their expertise is daunting, we are grateful to have their commitment to remain as a sounding board and an advisor when we need it. Our gratitude for all that Diane and Erica have done for us is immeasurable. Fortunately for us, Diane is still nearby, continuing on as the Executive Director of the Mass Military Heroes' Fund that shares office space with the Mass 9/11 Fund. We are fortunate to have Alyse's continued expertise and assistance, if only on a limited basis, with some administrative tasks. We extend our deepest gratitude to Alyse as well!



*At the Mass 9/11 Fund official farewell party for Diane Nealon and Erica Cabag:
L to R: Erica Cabag, Alyse Mazerolle, Christie Coombs, Teresa Mathai,
Diane Nealon, and Diann Corcoran*

Events

First Quarter Day of Service

A group of energetic and enthusiastic family members and friends gathered in Dorchester at the Catholic Charities Yawkey Center food pantry on Saturday morning, March 12, 2011 for the first quarter day of service. Kids and adults, ranging in ages from 7 to 70, organized an efficient assembly line to move an estimated 10,000 lbs. of food staples from the pantry shelves and pack it into 700 individual shopping bags. The food is picked up during the week by families in need in the community. The food pantry is always looking for volunteers. If anyone is interested, please contact Beth Chambers at: beth_chambers@ccab.org.



Massfund families and friends volunteer at the food pantry

Family Advisory Committee

Teresa Mathai, Chair
Christie Coombs, Co-Chair
Iris Friedman
Diane Hunt
George Smith
Judy Smith
Cindy McGinty, Honorary

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Chancellor Marty Meehan
Molly Sherden
Barry Tatelman
Eliot Tatelman
Faith Weiner

In memoriam

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Loretta W. Kowal

Upcoming Red Sox Game and Reception

The Mass 9/11 Fund is pleased to host a family night at Fenway Park. The Red Sox will be playing the Seattle Mariners on Saturday night, April 30 at 7:10 p.m. There will be a pregame reception at Jillians. To check ticket availability, please e-mail Alyse Mazerolle at Alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org.

Upcoming Second Quarter Day of Service

This Memorial Day, the Mass Military Heroes' Fund will again be planting 20,000 flags at the Boston Common, representing the lives of US service members who lost their lives in conflicts since World War I. The flag display reminds us of those who've given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

On Wednesday, May 25, beginning at 1:00 p.m. volunteers are needed to help plant the flags in the designated area near the Sailors & Soldiers Memorial in the Boston Common. The flags will remain "planted" until sundown on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30. Volunteers are again needed to remove the flags at about 5:00 p.m.

If you're able to help, contact Christie at mccoombs@comcast.net, or Diane Nealon at dnealon@massmilitaryheroes.org or 617-482-0444. We hope you'll stop by the display or come to the name-reading ceremony of those who lost their lives in service in Iraq and Afghanistan on Thursday morning, May 26. For more information, go to www.massmilitaryheroes.org.



*May 2010 –Remembrance Service Honor Guard at the MMHF
Memorial Day tribute to the fallen*

Recently in the News

Carie Lemack's Film Nominated for Oscar

A month after their mother, Judy Larocque, was killed on AA Flight 11, Carie Lemack and her older sister Danielle co-founded Families of September 11 to press for answers, to demand accountability, and to give voice to the voiceless. Since then, Carie has advocated for victims of terror, worked to create policies and laws to improve security, and helped promote communication and understanding in an effort to bring an end to terrorism.

In 2005, a suicide bomber in Amman, Jordan detonated himself at a Muslim wedding, killing 27 members of the wedding party. Carie met the groom, Ashraf al-Khaled, at a United Nations symposium for survivors of terrorism in 2008. (His wife survived, too, but three of their parents died.) Together in November 2009, Lemack and al-Khaled formed the Global Survivors Network, which aspires to prevent future acts of terror by giving voice to those who survived past ones. As part of their message, **Lemack executive-produced "Killing in the Name,"** about al-Khaled's efforts to confront radicalized Muslims with his pain. The 38-minute film was recently nominated for an Oscar. "I'm just so thrilled," she said. "It was so painful and so awful ... We are going to make something positive so the whole world can see." For more information about the movie and Carie's work, see www.globalsurvivors.org.

Maintenance of Boston Public Garden Memorial

Many of you may have seen in the news that there has been some minor vandalism to the granite of the The Garden of Remembrance Memorial in the Boston Public Garden. It's likely that the scrapes on the top edge of the granite have been caused by skateboarders. Since the apparent skateboarding has continued since first discovering the damage in 2009, the Parks Commission has agreed to install a "post and chain" barrier on the back side of the Memorial monument to hinder skate boarders. We believe this will provide a deterrent with the least possible change in the appearance of the Garden of Remembrance Memorial site. The application for the post and chain was recently approved and we plan to complete the installation before the annual commemoration.

9/11 Museum Staff Visits Boston Area

Two Workshops - Stay Tuned

Families will again have an opportunity to submit their photos and memorabilia to the 9/11 Memorial Museum at Ground Zero when representatives from Voices of September 11 and the Museum come to Boston.

Voices of September 11 will be coming to the Wellesley Free Public Library on Thursday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to scan and organize photographs and personal keepsakes for inclusion in the 9/11 Living Memorial Project. The library is located at 530 Washington Street in Wellesley. Appointments are required and can be made by contacting Michelle Doherty at mdoherty@voicesofsept11.org or [203-966-3911](tel:203-966-3911)

The 9/11 Living Memorial Project is a digital archive currently online at www.911livingmemorial.org that chronicles the lives of the nearly 3,000 lives lost in the 9/11 attacks, and documents the inspirational stories of survivors, rescue and recovery workers.

Participants are invited to bring in photographs, written tributes, eulogies, biographies, newspaper articles and other personal keepsakes that will create a meaningful legacy to honor those who died and to document your personal story for future generations. Unless otherwise arranged, all materials will be returned at the workshop.

During the third week in May, representatives from the National September 11 Memorial and Museum will come to the South Shore and Newton for appointments to do interviews and gather photos and memorabilia to be included in their rotating exhibit. First day appointments will held at Hope Floats in Kingston, and the second day appointments will be held at the Newton Historical Society. By offering two locations, we hope to make it easier for families to meet with them. Details on time and date will follow via e-mail.

For information on how your memorabilia will be used in the museum, click on [9/11 Memorial Museum info](#).

10th Anniversary Publications

Twin Towers Orphan Fund

The Twin Towers Orphan Fund is producing a remembrance book for the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001. If your child or young adult would like to participate, they are encouraged to memorialize their lost parent in any manner of their choice. Each submission should be no longer than one page and can include photographs. Every participant will receive a copy of the completed book, which will be used by the fund to raise donations for the benefit of the children. Although the soft deadline is **April 30, 2011**, submissions may be sent after that date. Call Karlene Boss so she will know you are still interested in participating.

The stories can be emailed to benefits@ttof.org or mailed to:

Twin Towers Orphan Fund, Attn: Karlene Boss
7004 Outingdale Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93309
661-633-9076 between 7a.m. and 12 p.m. PST

Tuesday's Children: The Legacy Letters

Last August, Tuesday's Children requested submissions for their September 11 tenth anniversary book project, *The Legacy Letters*, which will be published by Penguin. The response was overwhelming. Only 100 letters were selected by the publisher to be included in the final publication, due to be released in August/September 2011. Among the legacy letters selected are several by families of the Mass 9/11 Fund.

Letters not selected by Penguin will be printed in their entirety in a keepsake edition to be self-published by Tuesday's Children and will not be for sale to the public. All participants who met the January 2011 deadline will receive the keepsake book. Individuals whose letters were selected for inclusion in *The Legacy Letters* will also receive a copy of the finished publication which will go on sale to the public in time for the 10th Anniversary. If you have any questions, please call Sara Wingerath of Tuesday's Children at 516-562-9000.

The Tribute WTC Visitor Center, a Project of the September 11th Families Association: 9/11 The World Speaks

Their upcoming publication tentatively called *9/11 The World Speaks* is scheduled to be published in the fall of 2011. This book will contain thoughts, feelings, comments and drawings produced by visitors to the 9/11 Tribute Center located at 120 Liberty Street in New York.

10th Anniversary Commemoration Planning for Boston

Please Complete the Online Survey – Coming Soon

Shortly, there will be a letter and Survey Monkey in your e-mail to help us plan for the 10th Anniversary Commemoration year and going forward. We welcome any input you may have to help us plan this milestone commemoration year in Boston.

We also hope that you will consider joining us for our monthly Family Advisory Committee meetings, where you can get the inside scoop on our regular events and ongoing business. We invite you to participate in one of our working committees and join us in planning for the 10th Anniversary Commemoration and Day of Remembrance and Service.

If you are a family member and are not receiving information from us via e-mail, and if you would like to do so, please get in touch with us to update your latest contact information. Our current list of families has 74 invalid e-mail addresses. Please contact teresa.mathai@massfund.org to update your information.