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Happy 2012

Happy 2012 everyone! We at the Family Advisory Committee (FAC) hope you all had a peaceful holiday season filled with the blessings of family and friends.

We're into another year and we're already planning family events, including: service projects, a Red Sox outing, the family bus trip to Ground Zero and the 11th Annual Commemoration. As we plan this year's commemoration, we will be taking into account the comments from the survey so many of you were kind enough to complete. As it is a non-milestone year, the commemoration will be on a smaller scale, but no less important with regards to its content, respectfulness, and how it honors our loved ones. For more information on the survey results we received, please see Page 4.

Upcoming Events

Mass 9/11Fund Sponsors Bus Trip to Ground Zero

The Mass 9/11Fund is sponsoring two bus trips to Ground Zero on **Saturday, April 14 and Saturday, May 5**. The buses will depart from Braintree at 6:30 a.m. and return to Braintree at about 10 p.m. More than 80 family members are planning to take the trip which will include a group visit to the Memorial Reflecting Pools. An optional tour of the area will be available and include an opportunity to visit the Tribute Center, St. Paul's Church, the Family Room and the Preview Center. A light breakfast will be provided on the bus, lunch will be available during the visit, and the bus will stop at a deli for dinner on the trip home.

With the help of our very thoughtful contacts at the Memorial Museum in New York, we've been able to put together a meaningful day trip. Knowing it is the first time some families will be seeing Ground Zero or the National 9/11 Memorial, we realize it may be an emotional experience for many. Deborah Rivlin will be accompanying us on the April 14 trip, and we will have a Community of Care member on the May 5 trip for those who might like additional support.

Some seats may still be available. Contact Alyse at Alyse.Mazerolle@massfund.org or at 617-482-8153 for inquiries and to reserve a seat.

Red Sox Game and Reception

The Mass 9/11Fund will be hosting another Red Sox event for families on **Sunday, May 6**, the day after the second bus trip to Ground Zero. This year we will be combining the event with our friends at the Mass Military Heroes' Fund. Thanks to Red Sox Owner and President Larry Lucchino and his staff, we have secured a room within Fenway Park for our pre-game reception. As always, reservations for this event will be on a first-come/first-served basis. Each family will have a chance to reserve up to four tickets at a face-value cost of \$52 each. There will be no charge to you for attending the reception. Please do not respond now, however! You will receive an email via *Constant Contact* about one month prior to the event with details on reserving tickets.

Family Advisory Committee

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 Christie Coombs, Co-Chair
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 George Smith
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In Memoriam

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
 Loretta W. Kowal

2nd Quarter Service Project**Support Our Fallen Service Members**

On **Wednesday, May 23**, the Mass Military Heroes' Fund (MMHF) will gather with volunteers on the Boston Common for its third annual Flag Planting to commemorate Memorial Day. In the past, MMHF has planted 20,000 flags to honor Massachusetts's service members who've died in service to our country since WWI. This year, the organization that advocates for Massachusetts families of fallen service members as a result of post 9/11 conflicts, will plant 50,000 flags. Each of those flags will represent a Massachusetts service member who has died since the Civil War.

Once again, Mass 9/11 Fund families are welcome to join the hundreds of volunteers to help create this impressive tribute to our American heroes. This will be our second quarter community service project. More details of the event will follow via email.

You can also help support this effort by sponsoring a flag for \$5. Log onto www.massmilitaryheroes.org to make an online contribution; another way of paying tribute to a service member in your life, or remembering your loved one.

Youth Corner**Helping Heals**

Two weeks ago, a group of 20 teens from New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts travelled to Austin, Texas with Tuesday's Children for Habitat for Humanity's "Helping Heals."

For four days we worked from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm as a team, preparing houses for families who would soon move in. Since the houses were already built, we worked in a developing neighborhood painting, putting together cabinets, and landscaping. We were lucky enough to meet one of the homeowners, who is a taxi driver at night while he spends his days working on his house as a surprise for his unknowing wife and eight children! Meeting this man really inspired me and made all our hard work worth it. Not only was it a great experience to be able to help people, but we were with friends who mean so much to each other.

Since America's Camp ended, Tuesday's Children has been a great way to connect with our 9/11 friends we've become so close to, as well as make new friends. We all really look forward to the programs Tuesday's Children has to offer and the way they bring us together and encourage us to pay-it-forward.

- *Julia Coombs*

Helping Heals Volunteer - Julia Coombs

America's Camp Annual Reunion

Though 9/11 children from all over the country were saddened to hear that summer of 2011 was the last time America's Camp would be held, they have been promised annual reunions, usually held in March, to help campers and staff catch-up every year. This year, the reunion will take place on **Sunday, March 25, 2012 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM (PT) in NYC.** If your child has attended America's Camp in the past and would like to respond to their camper reunion event in NYC, please do so by using this link:

[RSVP for Americas Camp Reunion HERE](#)

Tuesday's Children

Tuesday's Children is a non-profit family service organization based out of NY that has made a long-term commitment to families with children and teens impacted by the events of September 11, 2001 and more recently those who have been impacted by terrorist incidents worldwide. To find out more about their various annual programs; Helping Heals (February), Take Your Children to Work Day (April 22), Project Common Bond (July), etc, **please make sure you are registered with them** and visit their website:

<http://www.tuesdayschildren.org/>

Project Common Bond: July 12-20, 2012

One of Tuesday's Children's popular annual programs, Project Common Bond (PCB), brings together teens, ages 15 – 20, from around the world who share a 'common bond'--the loss of a family member due to an act of terror. Launched in 2008, Project Common Bond has so far brought together over 225 teenagers from eleven different countries and territories to turn their experience of losing a loved one to terrorism into positive actions that can help others exposed to similar tragedy.

PCB is the first international community for teenagers who lost an immediate family member (mother, father, sibling, grand parent) due to a terrorist incident. It is an ongoing community building and social action movement for youth, both here and abroad, which culminates in an eight day conflict negotiation, peace-building camp experience. Participants will engage in programs designed to foster trust, cooperation, communication, transformation and healing in the areas of global leadership, arts, theater, music and sports.

This year, Project Common Bond will be held 30 minutes outside Boston, MA at Governor's Academy from July 12 - 20. There are fees associated with this program; if there is a financial hardship, please contact Kathy Murphy at Kathy@tuesdayschildren.org or call 516-562-9000.

The deadline for MA families to fill in this application is March 21, 2012. For more information on this program and to access the application form please go to their website: <http://tuesdayschildren.org/programs/pcb>

UK Summer Camp for Teens, Ages 15-17, from August 8-18, 2012

The UK Summer Camp originated thanks to the generous donations from the **World Trade Centre Disaster Fund** and the UK toy manufacturer **Merrythought Ltd.** This 10-day Summer Camp is organized by the **British Council** as part of the **UK 9/11 Scholarships Fund.**

For the fourth year in a row, the British Council's UK Summer Camp will give US teenagers the opportunity to experience the cultural and educational opportunities of the UK firsthand. Funded by the UK 9/11 Scholarship Fund, the program is tailored for teenagers who endured the death or serious injury of a parent in the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Over the course of ten days, teens will be introduced to further and higher education opportunities in the UK through visits to colleges and universities, while immersing themselves in British culture through visits to popular sites across the UK. Funding for the trip will cover most costs. 20 participants between the ages of 15 and 17 years old will be selected through an application process. Students should be entering their Sophomore, Junior or Senior year of high school in autumn 2012.

The deadline for applications is Friday, March 23, 2012. Only those teens who have not attended this camp previously may apply. For further information and to fill out the online application, please visit their website:

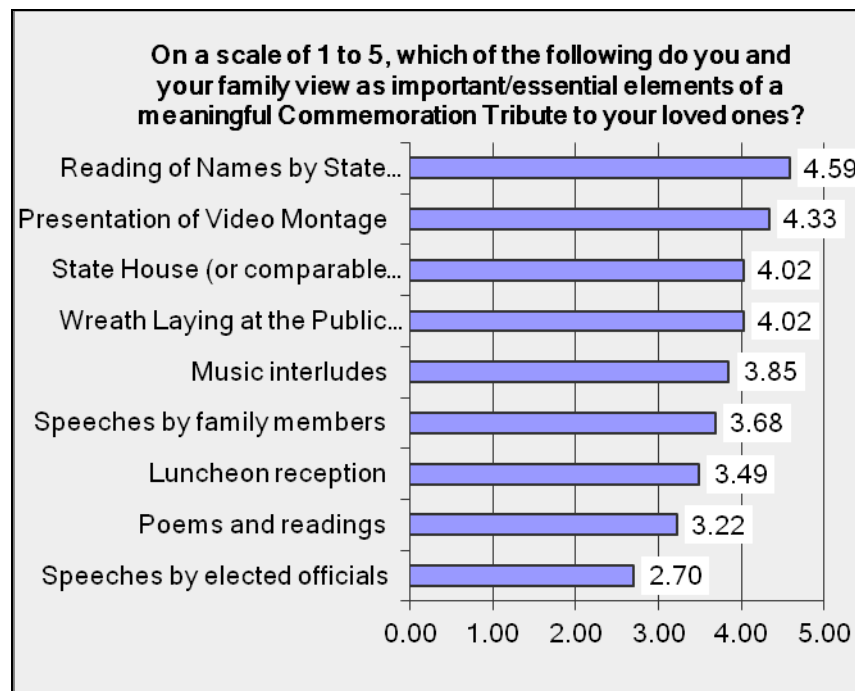
<http://www.britishcouncil.org/911scholarships-summercamp.htm>

You may also contact Aaron Fettgather at 202-588-7670.

10th Commemoration Survey Results

In January, a 10th Commemoration Survey was sent out via email to 293 members of our Mass 9/11 Fund community. Below is a breakdown of selected feedback we received and our (FAC) responses.

- 49 people (17%) participated in the survey
- 70% of those who responded attended the 10th Commemoration in Boston
- 30% of those who responded attended the 10th Commemoration elsewhere



Boston 10th Commemoration Feedback Survey - Overview of Responses

Selected Survey Feedback

Because this was an anonymous survey, we are using this newsletter as a vehicle to respond to some of your feedback. [Our responses are shown in blue.](#)

THE WREATH LAYING

- "The various organizations from the City of Boston really came through to make this a deeply meaningful wreath laying ceremony. The newly refurbished monument, flowers, the field of US flags planted for each loved one lost, church bells, bag pipes, dignitaries in attendance, honor guard, men and women in uniform, all contributed to a dignified and respectful event - a fitting honor to our loved ones."
- "I appreciated how the ceremony was put together and how the FAC got the various dignitaries to show up and pay their respects."
- "The media was in the way...There were too many people for a small area...the families should have been a priority and they weren't."

FAC: *When the monument at the Boston Public garden was erected, it was originally designed for quiet, reflective gatherings, not events with a big public attendance. Most years, only a small number of families attend the Mayor's Wreath Laying, and it is easier to manage the smaller number of media. With the 10th*

Anniversary, the interest was far greater than “non-milestone” years, and more family members attended as well.

Last year, given the increased attendance expected, the media was specifically directed to stay behind the monument and to park their vans outside the garden. For the most part, they did, and we attempted to speak to those who ventured into family space. As this is a public venue and not a ticketed event, it is hard to distinguish members of the public and family members as the numbers attending differ every year.

THE FLAG LOWERING AND NAME READING ON THE STATE HOUSE STEPS

- *“The big family participation and solemnity at the Flag lowering was respectful and very fitting for the 10th anniversary. We could see how far many families had come and are always proud of all the youngsters who choose to participate in honoring their loved ones.”*
- *“Very moving and well done event. If the gates/fences could be open, that would make it more accessible to the public – but otherwise, very well done.”*

FAC: *We approached the State House about opening the gates prior to the Ceremony, as members on the Family Advisory Committee agreed that it would make the public feel more included in our Commemoration. However, we were informed that with such a large crowd, it would create a security issue.*

COMMEMORATION OBSERVATION & SWEENEY AWARD CEREMONY IN THE HOUSE CHAMBERS

- *“I found the music and readings to be especially moving this year. I thought that the content was the best ever! While there were more public figures that spoke than usual, with one exception, I thought they were eloquent and added value to the day. Thanks to all who made this ceremony so memorable and meaningful!”*
- *“Mrs. Vicky Kennedy's message resonated well with us. She hit key emotional points and came across in a compassionate and understanding way.”*
- *“I'd like to hear some new music behind the video montage. And maybe, when they show the photograph of the victim, they could include the pictures of their current family?”*

FAC: *That is a nice idea, but the video montage is an expensive project. We update it on a need basis, usually to add photos of loved ones who are not already in the montage. Making extensive changes is very costly. Please get in touch with us if we do not have the photo of your loved one.*

PRIVATE FAMILY RECEPTION AT THE RITZ CARLTON

- *“Please keep it going—it is the one time each year people turn out from near and far and catch up with each other.”*
- *“There were so many people and tables in the room, it was very difficult to get around if you wanted to say hello to someone and get to your food-but I am very grateful for the reception, so thank you!! “*

FAC: *During milestone years, we experience a bigger than usual turnout of family members at the reception and we try our very best to accommodate everyone. Also, it is a challenging situation when the number of people who attend the reception differs from the number of people who responded to the invitation when the room was booked, hence our early response dates.*

- *“I appreciate that the Ritz Carlton hosts the brunch, however, the ceremonies do not end until after 12:00 and people have not eaten since early morning. A lunch menu would be preferred.”*

FAC: *We selected the Ritz Carlton venue and brunch menu for many reasons; Its proximity to the State house, its competitive rates, and its exceptional service. So far, and surprisingly, it continues to be our most affordable option. We can certainly inquire about a lunch menu, but cost prohibits us from doing anything too substantial. We re-evaluate our options every year and welcome suggestions from any family members who can help us get competitive rates for a reception near our annual commemoration venue.*

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU LIKED BEST ABOUT THE DAY'S EVENTS

- "The opportunity to see and catch up with other 9/11 families."
- "The beauty of the cleaned-up and flag-festooned memorial Garden. Vicky Kennedy's well-constructed message."
- "The quiet reverence of the day, family members being allowed to choose which events to join or not join. The time to share a meal together after the event is very nice."
- "It is always comforting to see other victims' families. I flew in from Seattle and am incredibly grateful to all of you. You are an incredible group of people...Thank you!!"

FAC: Thank YOU! We consider it an honor to work with other family members to put together the Commemoration of our loved ones and other community building events. We encourage other family members to join the Family Advisory Committee and help us continue this work.

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU LIKED LEAST ABOUT THE DAY'S EVENTS OR WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

- "Perhaps fewer speeches."

FAC: Last year, being the 10th commemoration, we had a larger than usual number of family members who wished to actively participate in the events and we tried to accommodate as many as we could. In addition, the Family Advisory Committee felt that inviting a few dignitaries and elected officials to participate would add dignity and solemnity to the 10th Commemoration events. This would not normally be the case during non-milestone anniversaries where we try and pare down the events.

- "I don't like to have to walk to the reception - it's tough on many. I think you could eliminate the reception. People like to do their own thing with their own families."

FAC: Every year, in our pre-commemoration mailings, we ask family members who need assistance getting around to contact us so we can make arrangements for them in advance; We look forward to hearing from you if we can be of help in future. We certainly respect your desire to do something with your own family. Attending the reception is very much a personal choice. We offer the family reception as an option for those who want to gather with other 9/11 families. Each year between 150-500 people choose to have a meal together as a way to slow down and reflect on the day while catching up with other 9/11 families.

- "I'd like to see a little more time for the reception, to encourage families to interact longer. Perhaps on the name tag – have the name of your loved one and where you are from."

Thank you for your suggestions and feedback! We will take to heart everyone's input in planning future commemorations.

If you did not receive the survey, it may be because we do not have your most recent email address or your spam filter is not accepting Mass 9/11 Fund group emails in your inbox. Please put info@massfund.org on your safe list and send all updates to Alyse.Mazerolle@massfund.org

Report from the Mass 9/11 Fund Board

Hard to believe in some ways, that it has been ten years, and that we are actually beginning to think concretely about the eleventh commemoration. As several family members have said to me, "the day after the tenth commemoration, my reality will still be the same, though most folks in the general public would probably not think of 9/11 again for most of the coming year". It is mostly true - those who did not lose a loved one expressed many warm and supportive thoughts for those left behind, appreciation for the many commemorative events and tribute pieces that were done, and then went on with their lives beginning 9/12. However, there are so many people for whom their daily reality has forever changed - people who survived that day and bear the bruises and harm that afflicted them as survivors, families of military personnel who served in the conflicts that arose as a result and returned home, in addition to those that did not return home.

That being said, you - the families of 9/11 - have given to the rest of us the memories of your loved ones, the privilege of watching you integrate the traumas of that day and those that followed into your lives, and to be in awe of what you have accomplished in the names of those lost. Some of these accomplishments have played out on a large stage, and others have pursued lives in dedicated tribute to their loved ones in very private ways. We have many charitable efforts that would not have existed had it not been for the expressed dedication of the people left behind and the donors and supporters who backed them. There are friends and neighbors living "down the street" from us who have simply demonstrated such strength and decency - the contributions of their daily lives speaking volumes about healing, about resiliency, and building lives that support their remaining family members, friends, co-workers and perfect strangers. You have all learned again to love, to heal yourselves, and to support others - each at your own pace, and each in your own ways. As a Board of Directors dedicated to the mission of the MA 9/11 Fund - now comprised of family members and members of the general public, we continue to focus on what our priorities should be - always visioning the montage of your loved ones in our minds. Those haunting yet soothing musical themes that play as the photos of so many - all too young - pass before us. Their lives had meaning - and we will never forget that.

As we move forward as an organization, our next major tasks include finding ways to support and strengthen the family advisory committee, develop financial methods to fund the ongoing commemoration activities, and to develop a set of curriculum that public school and private school teachers can utilize to teach "the lessons of 9/11". The first piece - strengthening the FAC - will be directly aided by the Board's recent action to make Alyse Mazerolle a part-time employee. As we develop a firmer understanding of what her responsibilities will be, we will keep family members informed. To start, Alyse will be working up a schedule and list of duties with the two Board liaison members to the FAC - Linda Gay and Diann Corcoran.

For the financial approaches to funding the commemoration in the long run and hopefully perpetuity, we are working on a plan similar to that we developed for the maintenance of the Public Garden Memorial, where there are sufficient funds put away and curated by the City of Boston Parks Department, that together with a detailed plan of activities for the year should result in the memorial being preserved virtually forever.

Finally, a committee of faculty experts from Harvard University, University of Massachusetts and Tufts University will begin to develop an approach to both identify the lessons of MA 9/11 that should be taught [by age and grade level] and possible methods to use to do so. These approaches might be in history class, art class, political science or a blend of multiple approaches. At the conclusion of the project - scheduled for 12/31/2012, we should also have developed a process for securing an endorsement of the MA 9/11 Fund for particular approaches. Then, we will begin to work with individual cities and towns to integrate the curricular initiatives we select together into the teaching of our young people.

With a large helping of humbleness, we approach these tasks, perhaps not fully understanding or appreciating the challenges, but knowing we must succeed, despite whatever may fall into our path to block, dissuade, or disappoint us along the way. It's the least we can do to honor those lives lost.

on behalf of all of the Board of Directors,

David Hastings, President

To Do List

Join Our Family Advisory Committee

We truly want the FAC to represent you, the families, so we would like to encourage you to become involved. We welcome your input and your participation in the Family Advisory Committee. In order to have a broader representation, we also hope young adults in your family would consider joining our meetings and actively participating. We meet once a month on Thursdays at noon. We understand that daytime meetings are not convenient for many of you and we would consider scheduling some evening meetings if there is enough interest. We look forward to some new, fresh faces. If you are interested, contact teresa.mathai@massfund.org or at 781-975-1248.

Send Us Your Updated Information

We are constantly updating our database to ensure Mass 9/11 Fund communication is reaching everyone. We are aware that in some families, we have email information for only one adult and the responsibility and burden of communicating with all other members of the family rests solely with them. Please send us the emails and telephone numbers of all young adults and family members so we can make sure we are reaching out to each of you with important information and opportunities to participate in our upcoming events. Send to Alyse at alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org.

You always reserve the right to opt out of receiving communication from us. However, if you feel you have not been receiving our electronic mail, please put info@massfund.org on your safe list to make sure your spam filter is not inadvertently rejecting mail from us.

Tell Us What You Think

We recently sent out a survey asking for your feedback on the 10th Commemoration events. Thank you for your enthusiastic response! If you feel inspired to send us any further feedback, please contact Teresa at teresa.mathai@massfund.org or Christie at mccoomb@comcast.net. We encourage your comments and suggestions on our ongoing activities and events so we can continue to serve you better.