

Family Newsletter

September 2005

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund



Board of Directors

President

Faith Arter

Vice President

Mary J. Kakas

Treasurer

Eric Lowrey

Members

Candy B. Altman

Daniel Bakinowski

John H. Curtis

Peter Dimond

Daniel England

James D. Fisher

Stephen J. Kerrigan

Lawrence E. Klaff

Molly H. Sherden

Susan I. Pederzoli

Faith Weiner

President Emeritus

Roderick MacLeish, Jr.

Family Advisory Committee

Teresa Mathai, Chair

Christie Coombs, Co-Chair

Cindy McGinty, Co-Chair

Honorary Board

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Senator John Kerry

Congressman Marty Meehan

Barry Tatelman

Eliot Tatelman

In memoriam

Loretta W. Kowal

New Seminar Series: First Session 10/18/05

As you know, the MA 9/11 Fund is particularly committed to addressing the long term mental health needs of our families. We have recently received a grant from the Red Cross which will allow us to pull together a series of educational seminars about mental health issues which may be facing you and your family today. You may have questions about how to cope with various stressors which are completely unique to families who lost a loved one on 9/11. In an effort to help you get those questions answered directly by licensed professionals, we invite you to our first seminar presented by a trauma expert and psychologist, "**What is Depression & Anxiety?**" to be held at our offices on **Tuesday, October 18** from **6:00-8:00pm**.

During this seminar, you will learn the following:

- the difference between sadness and depression
- identifying signs of depression in oneself or in a loved one
- when a case of "the nerves" becomes anxiety
- if, when and how to seek competent mental health treatment for depression and anxiety

Seminar participants will have the opportunity to have other questions answered privately or anonymously, if desired.

Who should attend this seminar?

- anyone who wonders if their "blues" is really depression
- anyone who wonders if there is a treatment for their "jitters"
- anyone with questions about talking to a family member or other loved one about depression or anxiety

A **light dinner** will be provided (which will of course include chocolate!). Please RSVP to Diane Nealon, Social Work Coordinator by phone at 617.482.8156 or by email at diane.nealon@massfund.org no later than **Tuesday, October 11, 2005**. When you RSVP, Diane will provide you with details on directions and parking.

We realize that not everyone can attend a seminar on a weeknight. If you are interested in learning more about this topic but cannot attend on this night, please let us know and if we have enough interest, we will hold this seminar again at a different time. Also, if you would like to see other topics addressed in upcoming seminars, please do not hesitate to let Diane know.

~~~~~  
**Also In this issue:**

**Family Access to 9/11/05 Video and Still Photography**

**"we remember" - the next phase**

**Update on Family Participation - Advisory Committee and Board Membership**

**Updates and Important Information from the American Red Cross**

**Upcoming Seminar:**

**October 18, 2005**

**6:00 - 8:00 PM w/dinner**

## Upcoming Events

Board of Directors  
Meetings at the  
MA 9/11 Fund Offices:

Monday October 17,  
2005  
6:30 PM  
Monday November 21,  
2005  
6:30 PM  
Monday December 19,  
2005  
6:30 PM

Family Advisory  
Committee Meetings  
Dates and Times to be  
announced

## **Family Access to Commemoration Video and Still Photography**

The new photo montage video which was shown at the commemoration earlier this month is now available on-line. It is currently protected with a password and will eventually be placed on our website. For now, you can access it at:

<http://www.giffordproductions.com/clients/massfund/commemoration.htm>. The username is **massfund** and the password is **family**. Both are case-sensitive. Many thanks to Bob Gifford of Gifford Productions in Newton, Massachusetts for his fine work in updating this montage. We continue to encourage those of you who have not submitted a photo of your loved ones for inclusion in this piece to do so at any time. Submissions should be of good clarity, 300 dpi for those of you who are technically versed. In the coming few weeks we will also add additional visual elements captured in the day's ceremonies.

## **"we remember" - the next chapter - a reminder**

We are now in the process of distributing the Remembrance Book, entitled, "we remember", to those who had participated in its creation, and those who have ordered additional copies. You'll find the order form at the end of this newsletter.

We'd like to be sure that the additional ones of you who would also like to participate now can somehow be included. For some family members, the distribution of "we remember" was difficult, in that there were some families and friends who were disappointed that their loved one(s) were not included. Some families had certainly elected, quite decisively, to not participate. Others did not know they could participate. A few of you expressed concern that you had sent in materials, but that the materials were not included. Some of those who had decided initially not to participate are now thinking that they would like the opportunity to do so.

Regardless of your situation, if you would like to participate, this is a good time to express interest. Our plan is to have interested families working together; much like many of you did originally. You would work with our designers to produce the layouts. We would take some of our existing copies, open the binding, and insert the additional pages where they would belong in alphabetical order. Although we have no financial capability to unbind and then re-bind all of the copies already provided, and the additional ones being purchased, the families who now participate would have their loved one(s) included in their personal copies.

Those of you amongst the original 76 families whose layouts were published who would like to participate in this effort as a support to those who will be going through the process, please let me know. You have a great perspective to provide to your fellow family members and their friends. After all, the wonderful and important experiences you've had together - that I continue to hear from so many of you - are the value you each have to each other. Brought together from so many disparate places - with a common bond of shared tragedy. And you have accomplished so much because of your shared strength.

Let us know whether you would like to participate in developing a layout for your loved one(s) for inclusion in your own copies of "we remember", or if you would like to help families given your experiences in creating one of the existing pages.

## Staff Contact Information

### **David Hastings**

Executive Director  
[david.hastings@massfund.org](mailto:david.hastings@massfund.org)  
617-482-8150

### **Diane Nealon**

Social Work Coordinator  
[diane.nealon@massfund.org](mailto:diane.nealon@massfund.org)  
617-482-8156

### **Erica Cabag**

Administrative Coordinator  
[erica.cabag@massfund.org](mailto:erica.cabag@massfund.org)  
617-482-8153

### **Toll-Free Phone:**

1-(866) FUND-911  
1-866-386-3911

### **Mailing Address:**

75 Kneeland Street  
Sixth Floor  
Boston, MA 02111

## Family Participation

The Board of Directors authorized the formation of a Nominating Committee that will be recommending individuals for potential service on the Board. We have collected names of several family members who have expressed interest in being considered. Also, several of you have volunteered to serve on an expanded Family Advisory Committee. We look forward to finalizing the list next month of individuals who will be participating in these two important capacities.

## Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery - 2006

That is not a typographical error - we mean 2000 and Six! It is not too early to suggest individuals for nomination for next year's award. As you learn about heroes in your local area, or another part of the state, please forward the information to our offices and we will pass it on to the appropriate officials at the Executive Office of Public Safety. It may be something as simple as a news clipping in your local paper. The criteria for the recipient are as follows: demonstrate exceptional bravery, without regard for personal safety, in an effort to save the life or lives of another or others in actual imminent danger; can not be a professional in public safety. Next year's award will recognize acts performed between July 15, 2005 and July 15, 2006.

## Commemoration 2005

September 12, 2005 - The morning the sky was once again blue and clear. There were certainly some differences, though. It was a "back to routine" day for so many - a Monday morning. That was one difference. There was another one, however - actually several. The contemplative garden in the Boston Public Garden was covered with flowers and thoughtfulness. There was a handwritten note on a napkin left there by two gentlemen who quaked with emotion as they placed it - a delicately scrawled birthday greeting to a loved one. There was a child's toy motorcycle, a bag of peanut M&Ms, multiple flowers - but even the flowers were of so many different varieties. Some were bunches, quite artfully assembled, wrapped in satiny plastic, and tied with a ribbon. Others were probably once fistfuls of flowers, taken from some special place somewhere, maybe from a garden, and gathered together in someone's hand. Now without the hand clutching them closely, they tumbled gently over the monument. For about five hours on Sunday, September 11, I stayed at the monument, until leaving for a candlelight vigil at the Boston Common at 8:30 PM. I followed in the footsteps of our gracious volunteers who stood by there in the height of the mid-day sun. We all provided a hug when asked, a quiet word when needed, and paper and charcoal sticks for making rubbings. So many people came there during my shift - I probably passed out more than a hundred pieces of paper for the prints. Sometimes a group of people would do it together, several holding the edges of the paper snug on the monument, while

one special person got to use the charcoal and scrub it gently across the paper. I did clearly note that in most cases the paper was damp by the end of the rubbing, while I know when I handed it to them it was quite dry.

To the team of people who offered the day of ceremonies and observance - all of the family members and volunteers who contributed in various and wonderful ways to provide this most angelic of orchestras that I had the honor to "conduct", - I thank you. You offered assistance, you read, you volunteered, you did long and hard hours of work, you cared enough to want to be of help, you nourished people, you played lovely songs, you gave words of support, and tender gestures, a whole variety of things. NONE of you ever complained or made any negative statements. So many family members who attended spent so many minutes thanking me - I hope I was always successful in making sure that when I "took a bow" in exchange for their kind remarks, that I swept my arm back to my right and gestured to the "musicians" that created the symphony these folks appreciated so much. To the Board of Directors - it was and continues to be you who have fashioned and continuously re-polish this delicate yet extremely strong "crystal" that is the MA 9/11 Fund. It continues to find a way to magnify the light of caring for families and friends, shining it on an ever increasingly large and varied population. Erica, Diane and I thank you for giving us the opportunity to be here to hold and cherish it on a daily basis, on your behalf, and in your names.

- David

## Updates, and Important Information about Benefits & Programs

**Scholarship America** - As you may remember from last month's newsletter, we were successful in working with this organization that is handling the disbursement of post-secondary scholarships for dependents (any dependent - child or spouse) of those loved ones lost on September 11. Scholarship America is now awarding families an amount equal to 85% of the demonstrated need, as opposed to 80%. We continue to work with them to increase the level even further. Our success will be based in part upon them feeling confident that they have identified as close to 100% as possible of the potential population that could use this support. Otherwise, they cannot reliably project the amount of scholarship assistance they should award as the years go forward and come close to expending 100% of the amount as they can. We need your assistance to do that, as well as that of all of the families directly affected by 9/11. MA 9/11 is working with many of the other organizations advocating for families, to urge all of you to register eligible individuals as soon as you can. It does not matter whether the family member is currently applying for post-secondary education or not. Register them now in one of the following ways: phone toll-free 1-877-862-0136 or email to [scholarships911@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:scholarships911@scholarshipamerica.org) or visit their website [www.scholarships911.org](http://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.

**MA 9/11 Fund Health Insurance Project** - possibility of offering a subsidy for the costs of health insurance coverage for families. The project is taking a bit more time than originally planned but remains on track. As soon as there is conclusive information to report, we will release it.

**Free Financial Planning Assistance** - If you would like to avail yourself of a completely free, no-obligation financial planning consultation as a family member, please contact the 9-11 Financial Planning Relief Services coordinated by Ms. Claude H. Collins, Program Coordinator for Pro Bono Services at 1-800-322-4237 extension 7138. Their website is <http://www.fpaprobono.org>

**American Red Cross Announces Deadlines for Service Availability** - *For further details on what you are about to read below, please call the September 11 Recovery Program Client Assistance Center at 1-877-746-4987 and/or visit their website at <http://www.redcross.org/september11/help> .*

The *Additional Assistance* Program - this program provides short-term financial assistance to specific categories of individuals who are suffering disabling physical or mental health conditions as a result of 9/11. The last day to apply for this limited, six-month program of financial assistance and intensive case management services in **December 30, 2005**.

The *Health Services* Program – this program provides clinical case management services and financial assistance for uncovered health costs for eligible individuals. Last day to apply is **December 30, 2005**, and the last day to provide supporting documentation in support of a claim is **June 30, 2006**.

The *Supplemental (or Estate) Gift* Program - provides \$55,000 to the estates of the deceased and to eligible individuals who were disabled as a result of a serious physical injury sustained on 9/11. Last day to apply is **December 30, 2005**, and the last day to provide supporting documentation in support of a claim is **June 30, 2006**.

