

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund, Inc. | 470 Atlantic Avenue, 4th Floor | Boston, MA 02110
 Phone Toll Free (866) FUND-911 | www.massfund.org

Table of Contents

16th Commemoration	1
2016 Madeline Amy Sweeney Award	2
Events	3
Mass 9/11 Fund Sponsors Family Outing to Red Sox Game	3
Boston Harbor Cruise	3
Upcoming Events	4
Turkey Drive Day of Service	4
Upcoming Service Events	5
Catholic Charities Annual Gift Giving Event	5
StoryCorps	5
Education Committee Update	5
FAC Corner	6
Welcome New FAC Members	6
The Family Advisory Committee Needs You	6
Send Us Your Updated Info	6

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16th Commemoration

September 11, 2017, was commemorated as an off-milestone anniversary by our community. We gathered for the Reading of the Names, Commemoration Observation, and the Family Reception at the Taj Hotel. This year, the Wreath Laying became part of the Closing Ceremony. We had smaller attendance than usual but the event was no less appropriate and moving.

The Commemoration Observation was intimate and thoughtful. Karin Charles, our Family Advisory Chair and family member, spoke for all of us as Emcee. Superintendent-in-Chief of the Boston Police Department William Gross delivered an absolutely stirring keynote address. As always the video montage was the emotional centerpiece of the gathering.

Special attendees throughout the morning included Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, other state dignitaries, and Mayor Marty Walsh. We thank them all for their ongoing involvement with the community.

Following the reception, family members were invited to return to the 9/11 Memorial for the Wreath Laying and Closing Ceremony. Father John Connolly offered prayers and messages of hope and endurance, and Superintendent Gross made an encore appearance. The West family, including young members, laid the wreath in front of the memorial to our loved ones. As bagpipers played, we all laid white roses. Many then chose to mill around and chat or reflect on the day, taking the opportunity to gently wind down from the intensity of remembering loved ones.



**September 11th Memorial
Boston Public Garden**



**Wreath Laying
Ceremony with
The West Family**

Mass 9/11 Staff

Alyse R. Mazerolle, Director of Operations and Programs

Family Advisory Committee

- Karin Charles, Chair
- Iris Friedman, Vice Chair
- Leslie Blair
- Christie Coombs
- Sheri Gay
- Patricia Hoban
- Diane Hunt
- Teresa Mathai
- Sally White

Honorary Board

- Cany Altman
- Mary J. Kakas
- Roderick MacLeish, Jr.
- Chancellor Marty Meehan
- Molly Shereden
- Barry Tatelman
- Elliot Tatelman
- Faith Weiner

In Memoriam

- Senator Edward M. Kennedy
- Loretta W. Kowal

**Keynote Speaker—
Superintendent-In-Chief of
the Boston Police Dept.,
William Gross**



**Emcee—Family Member
and Chair of the Family
Advisory Committee,
Karin Charles**

2017 Madeline Amy Sweeney Award

The Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery was created in February 2002 in honor of Amy Sweeney, an American Airlines flight attendant who died on September 11, 2001. The award is presented annually on September 11, to citizens of the Commonwealth who have displayed extraordinary courage, bravery, and heroism without regard for personal safety in an effort to save the life of another.

Jaydon Dancy, just 10 years old, was recognized with the award by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security during our Commemoration Observation. In 2016, Jaydon came to the aid of a kayaker in distress off the Salem waterfront. Without any concern for his own safety, Jaydon jumped into the cold water and took the lead in the effort to save the man from drowning, which unfortunately was not successful. Sadly, Jaydon himself was killed in a commuter train accident in June 2017. His mother, Michelle Margaret Dancy, proudly accepted the award on Jaydon's behalf.



**Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and
Michelle Margaret Dancy**



**Family Member,
Jacqui Sweeney**

Events

Mass 9/11 Fund Sponsors Family Outing to Red Sox Game

Another great day was enjoyed by those who attended the Red Sox game on Mother's Day, May 14. Forty family members enjoyed this fun-filled event at Fenway, where the Sox played the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Despite our best efforts at cheering them on, our beloved Sox lost 11-2. Oh well.



Family Members—
Peter, Shalan and
Owen Guza

Boston Harbor Cruise

June 18 dawned sunny and warm, a perfect day for more than 80 family members to enjoy another Boston Harbor Cruise. This year was different: the outing coincided with the magnificent Sail Boston Tall Ships 2017 event, and, we had the entire boat to ourselves. The food was wonderful as always.

Much of the outing was spent on deck as we circled the harbor. The weather was gorgeous and the views of the Tall Ships were fantastic.. See some of the great photos below.

The cruise afforded us the opportunity to de-stress from thinking about the upcoming anniversary while socializing with other family members, both new friends and old. A fabulous day was had by all.

Feedback was so positive that next year's harbor cruise event is already planned. The date is set for Sunday, July 22, 2018. Tickets go on sale on a first come, first served basis sometime in March, 2018. We will keep you posted!



Tall Ships Harbor Cruise
Sail Boston 2017

Upcoming Events 2018

We are currently making arrangements for a couple of our favorite events. On Sunday, June 10th we will be attending the Red Sox v Chicago White Sox game. Forty (40) tickets will go on sale in March. Alyse Mazerolle will send out an email as we get closer to the date with further details.

We are also organizing a boat cruise in the Boston Harbor on the Odyssey with a brunch buffet. Tickets for this event will be going on sale in April. Again, keep an eye out for an email from Alyse Mazerolle with information.

We hope that you will be able to join us and catch us with old friends, or meet some new ones!

Turkey Drive Day of Service

Family members and friends offered helping hands at Catholic Charities' Thanksgiving Turkey Drive under the expert direction of Beth Chambers. There were actually two events. The Dorchester drive took place on Saturday, November 18, the Brockton drive, on Tuesday, November 21.

Volunteers from the Mass 9/11 Fund and other entities registered recipients and distributed turkeys, and, bags of food containing vegetables and accompaniments. This terrific mix of people served 1700 families on Saturday and several hundred more on Tuesday.

We all want to enjoy Thanksgiving, and this annual project ensures that others can enjoy a lovely Thanksgiving meal with their families just as we do. It's just three hours of your time and you will receive so much more than you give!

Turkey Drive Brockton, MA

Bags of food and turkeys
provided hundreds of
families with Thanksgiving
Dinner



Upcoming Service Events

Catholic Charities Annual Gift Giving Event

On Friday, December 22, Catholic Charities South holds its annual gift giving event. Six hundred children have been signed up in advance by their parents, who are assigned shopping appointments. At the event, parents can select age-appropriate gifts and are also given wrapping paper to use at home. Great care is taken to make this experience as dignified as possible.

Volunteers are needed to register parents on arrival and man the shopping rooms. There is a room containing gifts for children newborn to 3 years, another for children 4-7 years, and so on, and also a room for sports equipment. You can volunteer for as many hours as you are available, as any help is appreciated. Shifts are filled as people volunteer. Lunch is provided.

Please contact Sheri Gay at sheri.gay@massfund.org if you'd like to help out with this service event.

And whether or not you can help in person, contributions of unwrapped toys are greatly appreciated.

StoryCorps

On Friday, December 1 and Saturday, December 2, family members came in to our office in Boston to share and record stories of their loved ones. The recordings will be provided to the National Archives as well as be heard at the National September 11 Museum in NYC. Those that participated were Karin Charles, Pat Hayes, Alice, Larry and Josh Jacobs, Dr. Peter Moyer, Meryl Price, Lauren Rosenzweig-Morton, Loreen and Matt Sellitto, Anna, Jack and Mike Sweeney, Matt West and Meredith Nelson, and Betsy Wyllie.

It was an emotional day as we reminisced, telling tales to paint a picture of the wonderful people that we want to honor and remember. Board Member, Beth Chambers of Catholic Charities, was on hand to provide support for those that needed it.

Education Committee Update

The Education Committee has another family member who has joined the group, Pat Hoban. Pat is retired now and happy to help.

We spoke to our largest high school group in October – 650 students at Boston College High School. Pat Bavis and Pat Hoban both spoke and were joined by Christie Coombs who talked about volunteering on 9/11. Christie is very familiar with the BC High community as her son graduated from there.

Our next scheduled Education talk is scheduled for January at Hull High School. The entire school will be in attendance.

We're always looking for more schools to go to. Please feel free to reach out !

FAC Corner

Welcome New FAC Members

We'd like to welcome our newest Family Advisory Committee members, Sheri Gay and Pat Hoban. They are a wonderful addition to our team. They've hit the ground running and have been busy helping us to provide you with events and information that you look forward to receiving. We would love to have more people join us! See below for more information.

The Family Advisory Committee Needs You!

The FAC represents you, the families, so we encourage you to become more involved. Our meetings for the next calendar year start in March 2018. We generally meet on the second Tuesday of each month from noon to 2 pm at our office, located on the 4th floor of the Independence Wharf Building, 470 Atlantic Avenue in Boston (near South Station). In the past, some of you who work during the day have helped us in numerous ways, from your homes, without coming in for the meetings. If you are interested in joining our endeavors on behalf of the Mass 9/11 community, we remain open to working with you to see what is convenient for your schedule. Your contributions and active participation in our work will bring to fruition the words "*We Will Never Forget.*" It has been more than 16 years since that tragic day and sometimes it feels like it was only yesterday. We need to honor our loved ones through remembrance and paying forward through service. We need your help to do so.

If you are interested in attending our meetings, calling in during our meetings, contributing from home, or discussing other options for participating in our working committee, please contact the FAC Chair, Karin, at karin.charles@massfund.org.

Please Send Us Your Updated Information

We are constantly updating our database to ensure Mass 9/11 Fund communications are reaching everyone. Please send any updates to your information, including names and addresses for young people no longer living at home, to Alyse at alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org. If you are on the mailing list but not receiving email, please put info@massfund.org on your safe list to prevent your spam filter from rejecting Mass 9/11 Fund emails. You always reserve the right to opt out of receiving communication from us.

