

New Jersey Family Assistance Center



Update

March 1, 2002

Reminder: Disaster Fund for the Children of New Jersey Application Deadline March 31

As reported in the previous newsletter, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce's Disaster Fund for the Children of New Jersey will stop accepting applications for donations March 31.

The program was established to provide immediate resources to children and their families affected by the Sept. 11 tragedy. The program is designed to provide six weeks' worth of emergency funds for families or households that lost loved ones in the attacks. You may be eligible if you are the parent or guardian of a child who was supported by someone who died in the attacks.

For an application or eligibility requirements, log onto the Chamber of Commerce's Web site at www.njchamber.com/medial/childrensfund.htm, or call the agency at 609-989-7888.

New York City's Office of Chief Medical Examiner Seeks DNA Samples

In its ongoing attempt to identify victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) of the City of New York is seeking DNA samples from families of the victims. While the office is still seeking initial DNA samples from families that have not already submitted samples, it is also seeking additional DNA material from family members who submitted samples earlier that did not provide conclusive DNA profiles.

If your loved one has not been iden-

State of New Jersey

Governor James E. McGreevey
Eric Shuffler, Coordinator
Office of Recovery and Victim Assistance

Family Assistance Center Update

Published by NJ Department of Law & Public Safety. For copies, call 609-292-4791.

New Jersey Family Advocate Program Created

In response to complaints by many families about the difficulties involved in accessing the array of services and benefits that have been made available to families of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks, Governor James E. McGreevey recently created the New Jersey Family Advocate Program to provide you with more personalized attention, less bureaucracy and more access to the services from which you seek assistance.

As part of the program, each family will be assigned a trained and experienced family advocate who will help the family navigate through the services and obtain information regarding charitable and private organizations, legal, financial and mental health services, scholarship programs and job training and skill enhancement programs.

Each of you will be receiving a letter providing more information about this important program and how to participate in the near future.

tified, you may call the office's DNA Hotline at 212-447-7884 to schedule an appointment to submit DNA samples or to find out if the OCME needs additional samples from you. The Hotline is staffed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day. In addition, the OCME has prepared a list of individuals reported missing in the Sept. 11 attacks, but who have not yet been identified. The list is available at www.nyc.gov/html/em/dnapr.html. If you are a family member of someone appearing on the list, please call the DNA Hotline for information on the identification of your loved one.

Victims Tax Relief Bill Signed Into Law

President George W. Bush recently signed into law the Victims Tax Relief Act of 2001, which waives income tax liabilities for victims of Sept. 11 terrorist attacks – as well as for the victims of the Oklahoma bombing and the anthrax attacks – for both the year in which the attack occurred and the previous year. In addition, the law provides for refunds of any income taxes paid in those years or a minimum of \$10,000.

The law also waives tax liability for money a family receives from a victim's employer, the federal government and charities. For example, the law exempts:

- ❖ Payments from the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001.

- ❖ Qualified disaster relief payments made after Sept. 10, 2001 to cover personal, family, living or funeral expenses incurred because of a terrorist attack.
- ❖ Certain disability payments received in tax years ending after Sept. 10, 2001, for injuries sustained in a terrorist attack.
- ❖ Death benefits paid by an employer to the survivor of an employee if the benefits are paid because the employee died as a result of a terrorist attack.
- ❖ Debt cancellations made after Sept. 10, 2001, and before Jan. 1, 2002 because an individual died as a result of the Sept. 11 or anthrax attacks.

The law also provides the IRS with the flexibility to postpone, for up to one year, certain tax deadlines of taxpayers affected by a terrorist attack.

To help victims learn more about the law, the IRS has published a guide that explains the provisions under the law. The publication also includes worksheets and information on required documentation to qualify for tax relief. To get a copy of the publication, log onto the IRS' Web site at www.irs.gov or call a special toll-free hotline established by the IRS for victims of Sept. 11 at 866-562-5227.

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Info Hotline: 866-NJ-CRISIS • www.nj.gov

**Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families
Currently Located at Liberty State Park, Jersey City, New Jersey**

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Victims Tax Relief Bill Signed Into Law

In addition, you should consult an accountant to learn how you can benefit from the new law or, if you do not already have an accountant, contact the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants' Help Center at 973-226-4494. The Help Center, which will remain open until June 30, will match NJSCPA volunteers with victims and their families to provide them with free financial and tax assistance.

Tuition Assistance Available to Families of Sept. 11 Victims

In the months since the terrorist attacks on our Nation, several organizations, businesses, universities and colleges have made various tuition assistance programs available to families of Sept. 11 victims. Through these programs, students who lost loved ones in the terrorist attacks or those who have been seriously injured in the attacks, are provided partial, and in some instances, full tuition assistance at institutions of higher learning. For your convenience, we have attached a list of programs relevant to New Jersey along with a description of each program. A more comprehensive list of scholarship funds established for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks can be obtained by logging onto the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority's Web site at www.hesaa.org.

New York Family Assistance Center Relocated to Lexington Avenue

The New York Family Assistance Center has recently moved and changed its hours. As of Feb. 12, the center relocated to 575 Lexington Ave., 11th Floor (at 51st Street). The center's hours are now: Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 8 p.m. and Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center is closed on Sundays and Mondays. For more information, call the New York Family Assistance Center Hotline at 866-689-HELP.

American Red Cross Extends Financial Assistance to Families of Sept. 11 Victims

The American Red Cross has extended the time period it will offer financial assistance to families directly affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks from three months to one year.

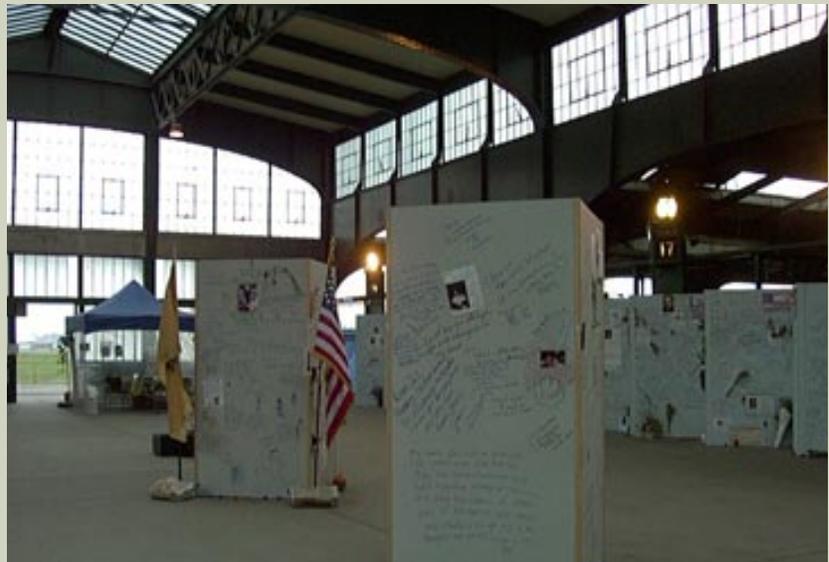
The Red Cross' Family Gift Program provides immediate financial aid covering "time-sensitive needs" such as mortgage or rent, childcare, tuition, utility and transportation payments, medical bills and other living expenses. The following individuals are eligible:

- ❖ families of victims lost in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon,
- ❖ families of rescue workers lost in the attacks, and

- ❖ families of passengers lost in the Sept. 11 plane crashes.

The program is part of a three-part plan to provide financial assistance and long-term services to those directly affected by the Sept. 11 attacks as well as immediate disaster relief. In all, the Red Cross expects to spend \$850 million in support to families of those killed in the attacks, people seriously injured in the attacks, displaced residents, economically affected individuals and disaster workers.

Those directly affected by the attacks, should call the Red Cross' New Jersey hotline at 877-746-4982 to speak with a representative.



The Memorial Wall and Memorial Kiosks, shown here at the Family Assistance Center, will be on view from March 11 to May 12 at the Department of State Building in Trenton as part of an exhibit entitled "9.11 NJ: Response and Reflection."

"Response and Reflection" Exhibit Comes to New Jersey State Museum Until May

From March 11 to May 12, the Memorial Wall and Kiosks, created at Liberty State Park, will be on view in Gallery 225 in the Department of State Building, 225 West State St., Trenton. Organized by the New Jersey State Museum in cooperation with the New Jersey Family Assistance Center "9.11 NJ: Response and Reflection" honors those whose lives were lost on Sept. 11, and commemorates the story of the staff and volunteers who selflessly gave of themselves to comfort and assist those in need.

Gallery 225 will be open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge and free parking is available in the Capitol Complex Garage on West State Street.

To protect and preserve the wall and kiosks, visitors are respectfully asked to refrain from bringing tributes and memorials to the gallery. A Memorial Book will be provided so that visitors can continue to add their written tributes and reflections. For more information or directions, call 609-292-6464.

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Tuition Assistance / Scholarship Programs

Organization Name	Contact Information	Eligibility Requirements
AON Memorial Education Fund	200 East Randolph, 8th Floor Chicago, IL 60601 ❖ 877-542-3301 www.aon.com/aon_fund.asp	Provides assistance to children of AON employees killed or injured in the terrorist attacks to ensure they can pursue post-secondary education.
Association for Investment Management and Research	P.O. Box 3668 Charlottesville, VA 22903 ❖ 800-2478132 or 434-951-5499 E-mail: 11septemberfund@aimr.org www.aimr.org/featuring/research/11septschlarship/index.html	Provides tuition assistance to victims of the Sept. 11 attacks who were permanently disabled as well as spouses, domestic partners or dependents of someone killed, presumed dead or permanently disabled as a result of the attacks. Applicants must be enrolled either full-time or part-time in an undergraduate program. Each recipient will be awarded annual scholarships of \$5,000, up to \$25,000.
Bridge to Tomorrow Grant Program	c/o Jack Kent Cooke Foundation 2255 North Dubuque Road P.O. Box 4030 Iowa City, IA 52243-4030 ❖ 800-498-6478 ❖ 319-337-1204 E-mail: jkc@act.org www.jackkentcookefoundation.org	Provides up to \$15,000 in scholarship money to dependents and spouses of individuals killed, missing or permanently disabled in the Sept. 11 attacks. Grants are available for undergraduate study at any two-year, four-year or technical trade school in the United States. Applicants must demonstrate financial need.
Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund	101 Park Ave., 45th Floor New York, NY 10178-0600 ❖ 877-220-3464 www.cantorrelief.org	Provides college tuition, among other things, for families of Cantor Fitzgerald employees who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.
Citigroup Relief Fund	850 Third Ave., 13th Floor New York, NY 10043 ❖ 212-793-5942 www.citigroup.com/citigroup/relieffund/	Provides scholarships to children of those who died or who were permanently disabled in the Sept. 11 attacks or during rescue efforts, and who are in need of financial assistance. Students must be enrolled or plan to enroll in a course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college or university. The fund will benefit children of the victims, including crew and passengers of the hijacked planes, WTC and Pentagon employees and visitors as well as firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians.
Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund	Citizens' Scholarship Fund of America 1505 Riverview Road, P.O. Box 297 St. Peter, MN 56082 ❖ 800-537-4180 E-mail: familiesoffreedom@csfa.org www.csfa.org	Provides tuition assistance to needy children and spouses of those who died or who were permanently disabled in the terrorist attacks and rescue efforts. Applicants must be enrolled or plan to enroll at an accredited college, university, or vocational-technical school based in the United States. Education assistance may be renewable for up to three years for undergraduate study, depending on availability of funds.
Global Education Fund <i>(Administered by the International Youth Foundation - IYF)</i>	Contact: Karen Diakun (IYF) ❖ 410-951-2328 E-mail: Kdiakun@iyfnet.org www.iyfnet.org/utility.cfm/85/general/168	Provides scholarships to children affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The scholarships are applicable to any university anywhere in the world.
Independence 9/11 Fund	182 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11201 ❖ 718-722-2300 www.icfny.org	Meets the financial needs of affected families in a variety of areas including educational expenses.
Make A Difference Day Scholarship Fund <i>(Administered by Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America)</i>	National Communities Fund c/o The Points of Light Foundation 1400 I St., NW, Suite 900 Washington, DC 20005 ❖ 877-862-0136 (Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America) www.pointsoflight.org/relief_fund.cfm	Established in conjunction with USA Weekend Magazine and in partnership with the Citizens' Scholarship Fund of America, the fund provides post-secondary education benefits to children and spouses of Sept. 11 victims, including airplane crew and passengers, WTC and Pentagon employees and visitors as well as relief workers.
National Education Association & American Federation of Teachers September 11 Fund	Dennis Van Roekel, NEA Secretary - Treasurer 1201 16th St. NW Washington, DC 20036 ❖ 202-822-7200 www.nea.org/nrl/nr010920	NEA and AFT will provide long-range assistance, including support for college education, to children and families of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

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Tuition Assistance / Scholarship Programs continued

Organization Name	Contact Information	Eligibility Requirements
<p>New York World Trade Center Memorial Scholarship</p>	<p>Higher Education Services Corp. Noreen Grose, Assistant Director, Grants and Scholarships 99 Washington Ave. Albany, NY 12255 ❖ 518-473-0410, Fax: 518-473-3749 www.hesc.com</p>	<p>Provides cost of attendance for undergraduate study at the State University of New York or the City University of New York or the equivalent amount to attend a private college or university located in New York. Children and spouses of victims, including emergency workers, who died or who were permanently disabled as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks are eligible.</p>
<p>Post-Secondary Student Assistance Fund <i>(Administered by the Independent College Fund of New Jersey)</i></p>	<p>Independent College Fund of New Jersey John Wilson, President 797 Springfield Ave. Summit, NJ 07901 ❖ 908-277-3424</p>	<p>Provides grants to family members of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. Each of the 14 member colleges of the ICFNJ can assist any eligible student in applying for the grant. The program is made possible through a donation by the Hoffman-LaRoche Foundation.</p>
<p>The Power of America Fund <i>(Administered by Educational Testing Service)</i></p>	<p>Educational Testing Service Rosedale Road Princeton, NJ 08541 ❖ 609-921-9000 www.powerofamerica.org</p>	<p>Provides a one-time scholarship of \$2,500 to surviving dependents of September 11th victims including the passengers and crews of the hijacked airplanes, those who died in the WTC and the Pentagon attacks, and rescue workers, will be eligible. Grants will be provided upon the dependents' initial enrollment at an accredited American institution of higher learning, two-or four- year programs. Grants are not based on financial need.</p>
<p>Sallie Mae 911 Education Fund Scholarship Program</p>	<p>c/o The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region 1112 16th St., NW Washington, DC 20036 ❖ 800-441-4043 www.wiredscholar.com</p>	<p>Open only to children of those, including police, fire safety or medical personnel, killed or permanently disabled in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Eligible children will receive up to \$2,500 (renewable on an annual basis subject to satisfactory academic progress) toward their post-secondary education where they reside. Applications must be submitted by the school's financial aid administrator by May 15.</p>
<p>September 11, 2001 Children's Fund, Inc.</p>	<p>❖ 845-758-0911 <i>E-mail: nine11fund@aol.com</i> www.911childrensfund.org</p>	<p>Provides scholarships, apprenticeships, internships, work-study programs and work training programs to the children directly affected by the terrorist attacks at the WTC, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. Children of U.S. citizens, naturalized U.S. citizens or green card holders who worked in the custodial or service-oriented positions and who were killed in the attacks are eligible.</p>
<p>Twin Towers Orphan Fund</p>	<p>900 22nd St. Bakersfield, CA 93301 ❖ 661-633-9076 www.ttof.org/</p>	<p>Offers assistance for the long-term well being of children orphaned by the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Anyone with primary knowledge of the child, can register him or her as a potential recipient of long-term educational and health-care benefits. The fund plans to provide long-term support for higher education needs, including tuition assistance, books, room/board and supplies, to students until the age of majority, or until they complete their uninterrupted studies.</p>
<p>United Negro College Fund ("UNCF") Liberty Scholarship</p>	<p>❖ 800-331-2244 www.uncf.org/LibertyScholar/index.asp</p>	<p>Provides scholarships to dependents of parents or guardians who died or who were permanently disabled in the Sept. 11 attacks. Candidates must be accepted or enrolled full-time into a UNCF college or university. Scholarships will be based on financial need.</p>
<p>Vantagepoint Public Employee Memorial Scholarship</p>	<p>1505 Riverview Road P.O. Box 297 St. Peter, MN 56082 ❖ 507-931-1682 www.vantagepointscholar.org</p>	<p>Five scholarships of up to \$10,000 each for survivors of public sector employees of any state or local government for attendance in undergraduate or graduate study.</p>

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New Jersey College-Based Scholarship Programs

School Name	Contact Information	Eligibility Requirements
Caldwell College	9 Ryerson Ave. Caldwell, NJ 07006 ❖ 973-618-3221, (Fax) 973-618-3650 <i>E-mail: landerson@caldwell.edu</i>	Provides immediate financial assistance to survivors of those who died in the Sept. 11 attacks. Recipients must be enrolled at Caldwell College.
Devry, Inc.	Jonelle Niffenegger ❖ 630-706-3212	Offers full tuition scholarships, subject to eligibility requirements to children and spouses of rescue workers, civil servants and military personnel who at both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon lost their lives in the line of duty. Beneficiaries may receive the equivalent of up to nine semesters of financial aid. At current tuition levels, this award is worth up to \$37,225.
Georgian Court College	900 Lakewood Ave. Lakewood, NJ 08701 ❖ 800-458-8422, 732-364-2200, Ext. 258 or 253 <i>E-mail: admissions@georgian.edu</i> <i>www.bergen.com/news/tuitionbk200109255.htm</i>	Georgian Court College has created 10 scholarships for Sept. 11 victims' children who enroll at the Ocean County school during the 2002-2003 academic year. The scholarships will cover tuition, room and board over four years, worth about \$77,000.
Mercer County Community College	Robert Rose ❖ 609-586-4800 ext. 3613	Children and spouses of Mercer County residents who died in the September 11 terrorist attacks will be granted free tuition to Mercer County Community College. There is no time limit attached, the offer will apply to younger children as well as those approaching college age.
Raritan Valley Community College	P.O. Box 3300 Somerville, NJ 08876 908-526-1200/Fax 908-429-8589 <i>E-mail: aloera@raritanval.edu</i> <i>www.raritanval.edu/newhometest/frameset/financialaid.html</i>	Provides full scholarships to residents of Somerset and Hunterdon counties who were the dependents of a victim lost in the Sept. 11 attacks.
Rutgers University	Director of Funds Management Rutgers Office of Financial Aid 620 George St. New Brunswick, NJ 08901	Rutgers University is waiving tuition for any New Jersey child who lost a parent in the September 11th terrorist attack. Financial support will be available for any undergraduate college or school on the New Brunswick, Newark, or Camden campuses. Applicants must comply with the standard application and admission requirements. Currently enrolled students or applicants for fall 2002 admission should send a letter with appropriate documentation to the Director of Funds Management. The following documentation will need to accompany the application: victim's death certificate and 2000 NJ resident income tax return showing that the student or applicant was a dependent, and the student's or applicant's birth certificate.

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