NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

DAILY NEWS, MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2001

News' WTC fund nears $3M

Charity begins at hometown paper for many readers

HELP HOTLINES

IF YOU NEED HELP:

■ **COUNSELING:** Grief counseling for victims' families is available at Pier 94, W. 54th St. and 12th Ave.

■ **BUSINESS:** Private businesses forced out of lower Manhattan by the terrorist attack will be eligible for low-cost electricity — at a 25% discount — through a state program. The electricity had been provided by the New York Power Authority to the Port Authority offices in the World Trade Center. Gov. Pataki said the 80 megawatts of discounted energy should save companies more than $6 million.

Business operators can determine whether they are eligible for the power by calling the PA toll-free at (800) 622-NYPA.

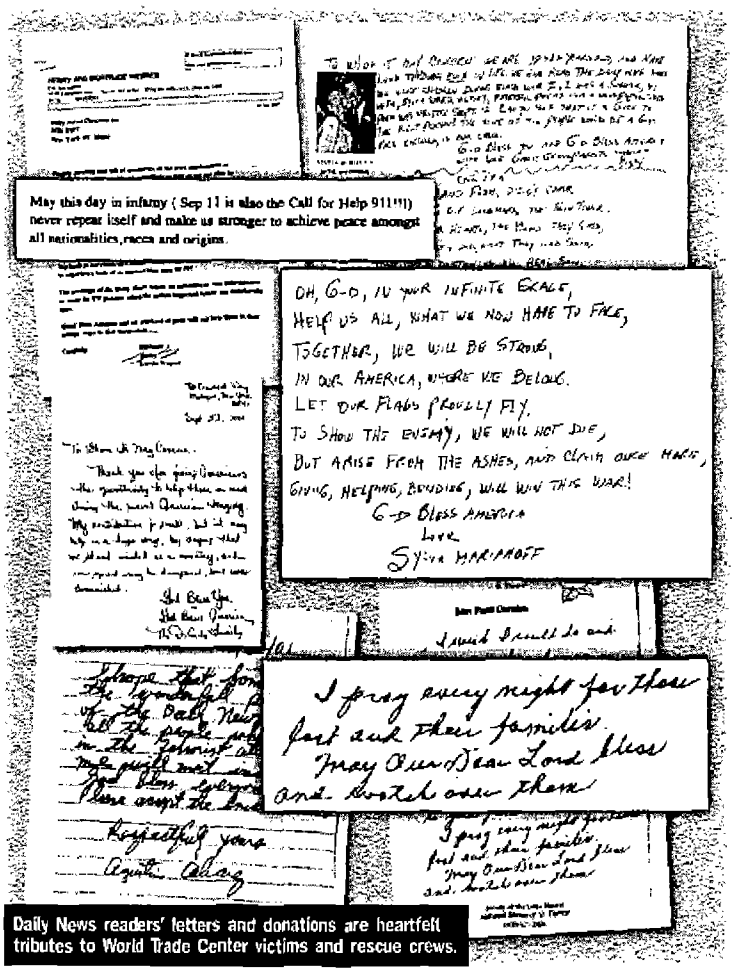
The Wharton Club of New York has set up a hotline designed to assist companies that are unable to return to their downtown offices. It will provide information on services including office space, furniture, communications networks, computers, accounting services and business equipment. You can call (800) 327-8065, or E-mail: help@beckoffice furniture.com.

■ **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** The state Crime Victims Board is offering emergency financial assistance to survivors who worked at the World Trade Center or people who lost a family member who worked there. For information, call (800) 621-HOPE. You also can visit Pier 94 at 54th St. and 12th Ave., or call (646) 710-6391/6236. Information also is available at the board's office in Brooklyn at 55 Hanson Place, (718) 923-4325; at Queens Borough Hall, (718) 286-3121, and at Staten Island Borough Hall, (718) 816-2144.

■ **OTHER HELP:** The American Red Cross has set up a new client help line for anyone with disaster-related needs: in Manhattan, (212) 219-6200; outside Manhattan, (877) 746-4987. Volunteers who speak several languages are available.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP:

■ **BLOOD DONATIONS:** The New York Blood Center has collected more blood then it can use at this time, but the center urges potential donors to make an appointment for later this month or next month. Call (800) 933-2566.



Daily News readers' letters and donations are heartfelt tributes to World Trade Center victims and rescue crews.

By ELIZABETH HAYS
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Some send brief, handwritten notes, scribbled in haste to get their checks in the mail.

Others attach poems, drawings and heartfelt tributes to the hundreds of men and women who lost their lives helping others on Sept. 11.

In the nearly three weeks since the World Trade Center disaster, dedicated News readers continue to shower the Daily News Fund with donations large and small to help the families of perished rescue workers.

"My contribution is small but it may help in a huge way, by saying that we stand united as a country," wrote the DiCarlo family of Mahopac, Putnam County. "Our spirit may be dampened but never diminished."

"I wish I could do and give more, but I am a retired widow on limited income," wrote Mrs. Fred Cornish, in a handwritten note on flower stationery attached to her donation. "I pray every night for those lost and their families.

Like Cornish and the DiCarlos, many contributors say they wish they could give more.

But together, News readers already have raised more than $2.9 million to help families of the firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians who lost their lives in the disaster.

"I'm overwhelmed by the generosity of our readers, but not surprised by their desire to do something," said News Senior Vice President Marie DeParis, adding that News readers continue to mail in whatever they can afford — from $1 to $100,000.

"This fund has been raised from the ground up," she added. "It was raised by the heart and soul of this city."

Along with their checks, News readers *also offer words of support, unity and* pride.

"May this day in infamy never repeat itself and make us stronger to achieve peace amongst all nationalities, races and origins," wrote Gertrude, Henry and Ronald Wegner of Bayside, Queens.

And longtime News readers Sylvia and Milty Marianoff included a full-page poem called "Our U.S.A."

"Let our flags proudly fly, to show the enemy we will not die," reads the poem, written by Sylvia. "But arise from the ashes, and claim once more, giving, helping, bonding, will win this war!"

To contribute to the Daily News Fund, readers may send checks or money orders to: Daily News Charities, P.O. Box 3307, New York, N.Y. 10001. To contribute by credit card, call (212) 210-2244 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, and from 8 a.m. to noon on weekends.

A link has been added to The News' Web site for donors who wish to contribute online. Go to www.nydailynews.com.

Okla. sends 10,000 bear hugs

By EMILY GEST
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

From nearly 1,500 miles away came 15,000 pounds of love.

It came in the form of 10,000 teddy bears collected in a Bear-a-thon organized by an Oklahoma City TV station.

The bears are to be distributed to patients, rescue workers and residents affected by the destruction of the World Trade Center.

"If a teddy bear takes a moment away from the sorrow and pain, then that's what it's all about," said Frank Valencia, 50, the trucking manager of BKJ Trucking of Perkins, Okla., which donated its services to deliver the bears.

"I wanted to do something," said David Dial, 54, a BKJ truck driver from Tulsa, Okla., who helped drive the bears to New York. "Those [twin towers] were my landmarks. I always knew I was close to New York when I saw them from the highway."

Dial said he "got chills" as he drove the 65-foot-long truck and trailer to NYU Downtown Hospital, the hospital closest to Ground Zero. When he arrived, he found more than 100 nurses and doctors outside the hospital's emergency room singing "God Bless America" and chanting "U.S.A."

"It's so sad we have to share tragedy," said Rebecca Canalija, 37, an emergency room nurse who was at Ground Zero.

"Every time I get out of the subway, I have a lump in my throat," she said. "It's a tragic moment in our lives, but we have to move on — we will rise again."

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