NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

Love letters inspire N.Y.C.

Singing praises of Rudy & city's Finest, Bravest

By JOANNE WASSERMAN
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

They come by the thousands each day: letters and cards, poems and drawings from around the nation and the world to make New York City feel good again.

There are telegrams and IRS checks, Christmas cards and condolence cards, CDs and T-shirts emblazoned with flags and eagles, foreign money, children's cards and notes in other languages — all love letters to a city that badly needs a hug.

"Dear New York," wrote 7-year-old Patrick Pfeifer of Louisville, Ky., in a child's simple, straightforward truth:

"I am sorry about your moms and dads but New York is still alive. You have to trust it. It's in your hearts."

Or this short and ever so sweet one from Robert Ginsburg "Dear Mayor Giuliani: Today we are all New Yorkers. May God bless NYC."

Since the attack at the World Trade Center more than two weeks ago, Giuliani's office has received so much mail that it practically fills an entire room at the Municipal Building.

Much of it is to thank the mayor for his leadership in New York's time of crisis. But there is also plenty for city cops, firefighters and rescue workers and still more for the entire city.

For the people in the mayor's office of correspondence and citywide services, who open the mail, the daily ritual is a welcome relief from the grueling, gritty task of getting New York back on its feet.

"This is like the best job I've had in two weeks," said Mary Polemarhakis, city events manager, as she went through boxes of mail from Japan, China, Scotland, Germany and Australia.

"People are getting through this tragedy because you are at the helm," wrote Elaine Richer of Scarborough, Maine, to Giuliani.

"Dear Firemen,

Thank you for being America's superheros in this terrible time."

A GRATEFUL AMERICAN
(WASHINGTON, D.C.)

In the pile of plaudits to the mayor comes a letter from LeMarse Taylor of the Bronx with this backhanded compliment:

"Sir, since you were never my cup of tea ... but I must let you know ... in our time of shock, grief and anger ... I felt something I thought I would never feel toward you — PRIDE."

Fear figures heavily in the mail, especially from children: "My mom's friend *may have died, but we don't know,* writes young Danny Mauldin, of Jacksonville, Fla. "Today in school I heard about all the terrible things," wrote Jennifer Kennedy of Kearny, Neb.

"It scares me to think we might have a war."

Like letters to Santa Claus at the North Pole, the mail is loosely addressed — "Any Rescue Worker, World Trade Center, New York, New York" — but manages to get where it needs to go.

Shortly after the attack, city officials began collecting the mail from the main post office on Eighth Ave. and 33rd St.

Starting at 5 a.m. each day, dogs from the U.S. Marshals' office sniff the mail. Each piece is X-rayed. Finally it makes its way to the Municipal Building where city workers begin the task of opening, reading and sorting.

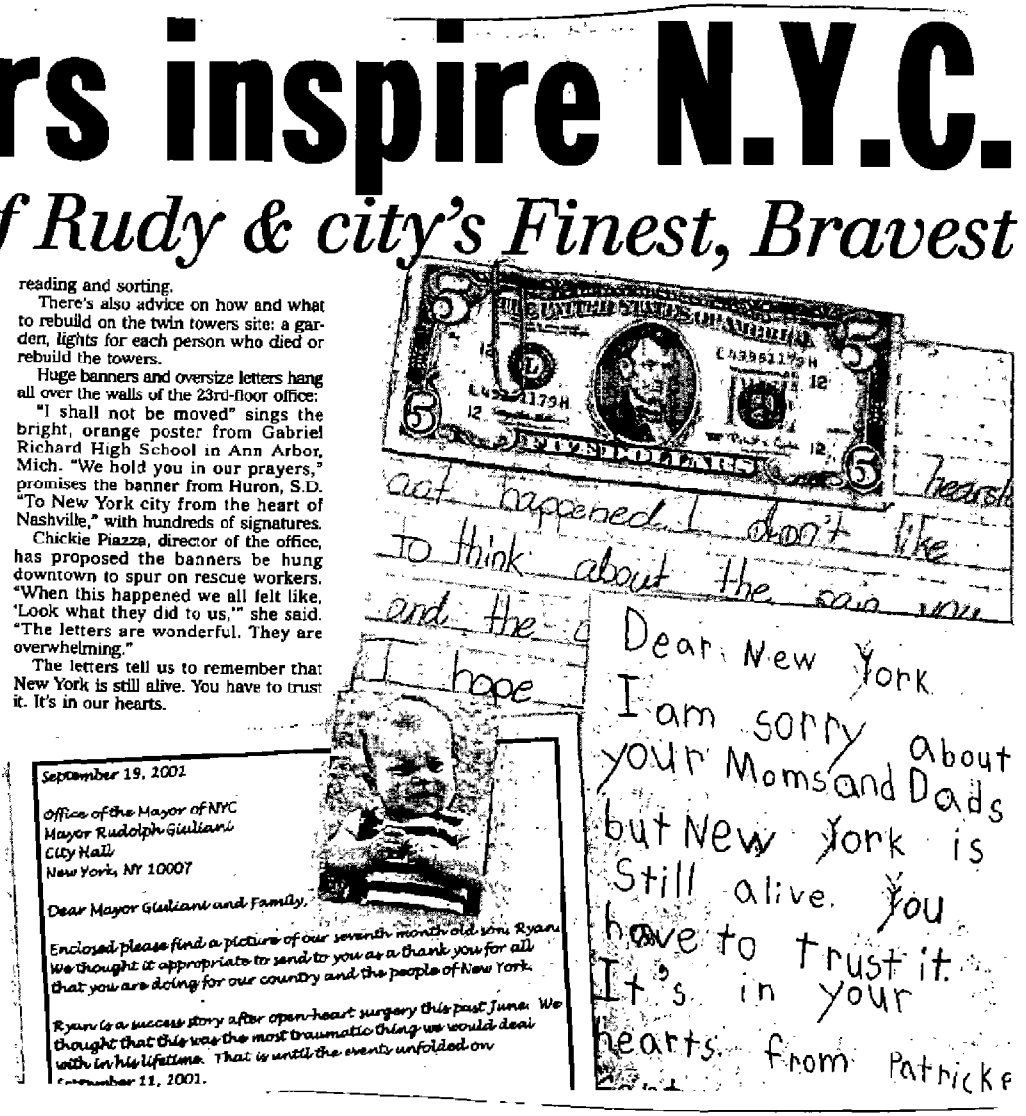
There's also advice on how and what to rebuild on the twin towers site: a garden, lights for each person who died or rebuild the towers.

Huge banners and oversize letters hang all over the walls of the 23rd-floor office:

"I shall not be moved" sings the bright, orange poster from Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor, Mich. "We hold you in our prayers," promises the banner from Huron, S.D. "To New York city from the heart of Nashville," with hundreds of signatures.

Chickie Piazza, director of the office, has proposed the banners be hung downtown to spur on rescue workers. "When this happened we all felt like, 'Look what they did to us,'" she said. "The letters are wonderful. They are overwhelming."

The letters tell us to remember that New York is still alive. You have to trust it. It's in our hearts.



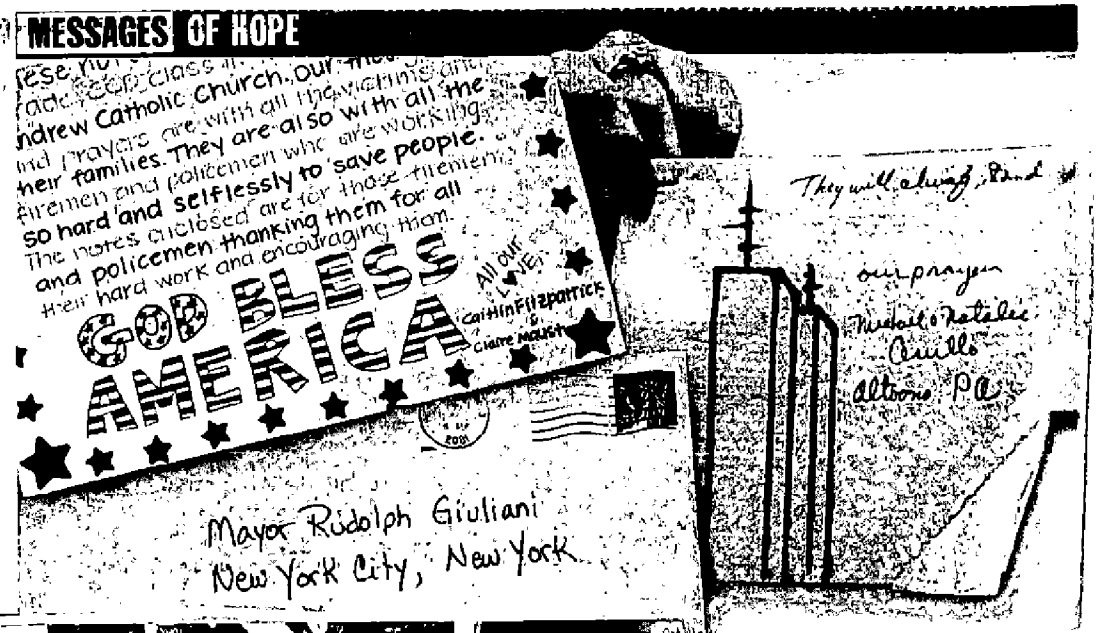
DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

CITY_21MC100_0118830318

NYC-WTC_000412893

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

MESSAGES OF HOPE





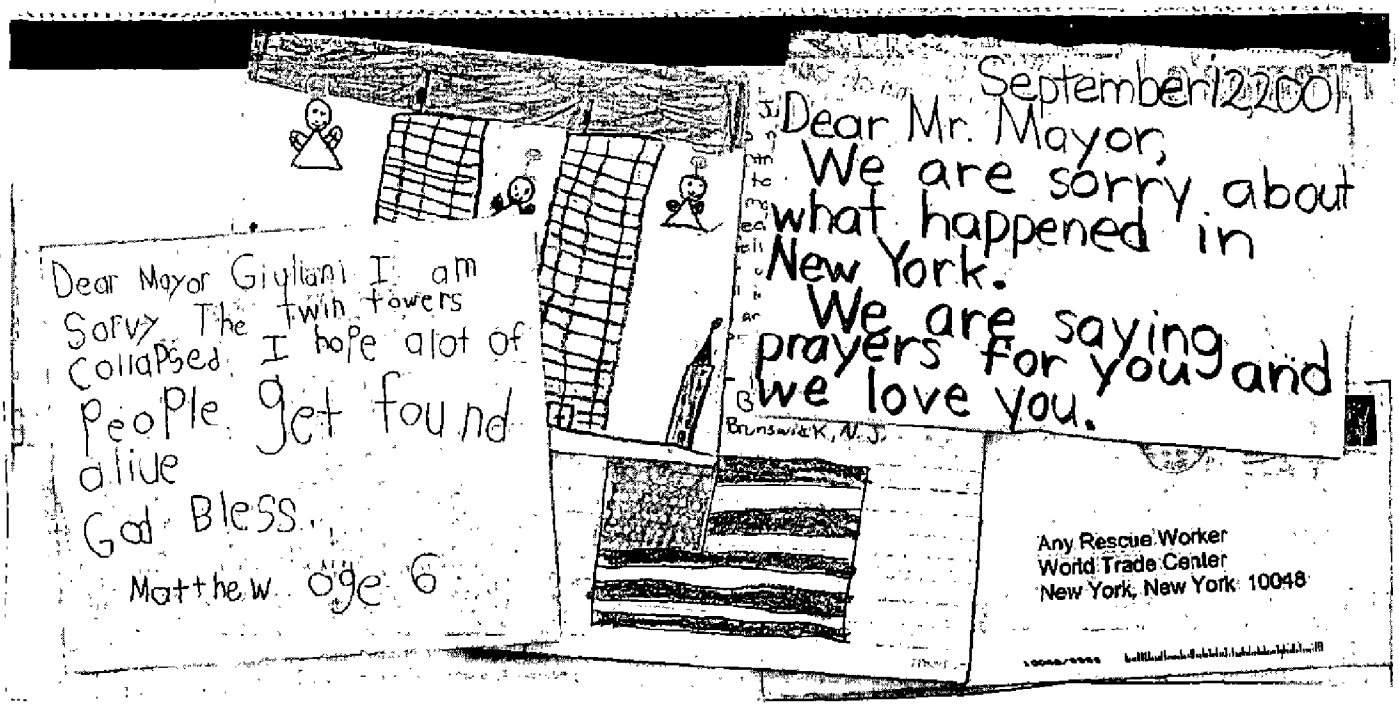
Thousands of letters and cards, poems and drawings from around the nation and the world daily make their way to the mayor's office at 1 Centre St.

CITY_21MC100_011830319

NYC-WTC_000412894

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2001



Dear Mayor Giuliani I am Sorry The Twin towers Collapsed I hope alot of People Get found alive God Bless.. Matthew age 6

September 12, 2001
Dear Mr. Mayor,
We are sorry about what happened in New York.
We are saying prayers for you and we love you.

Any Rescue Worker
World Trade Center
New York, New York 10048

NYC-WTC_000412895