

## **Tribute Visitors' Center The September 11th Information & Community Center**

The September 11th Families' Association has embarked on an exciting new endeavor. Recognizing that an estimated eight million people visit the World Trade Center site annually, the Association has launched an initiative to develop Tribute, a visitors' center dedicated to educating the public about September 11th. Tribute will be located directly across the street from the WTC site. While the WTC memorial is being built over the next five years, the center will serve as an interim place for millions of visitors. There people can learn about our loved ones, the events of September 11th and the ensuing rescue and recovery efforts through firsthand accounts. The 9/11 community - which includes family members, survivors, residents, recovery workers and volunteers - will be able to share their stories and experiences with visitors through a variety of programs.

Two distinct missions are encompassed in the Tribute Visitors' Center project. The first expands upon the parent organization - the September 11th Families' Association's - core mission to unite families of victims of terrorism and provide support. By broadening the constituency to the entire 9/11 community, the Tribute Center builds a stronger base of peer support. The second mission within the center uniquely utilizes the knowledge base and experience from within the 9/11 community to relate to visitors seeking a better understanding of the WTC site and September 11th. The first-hand connection of conveying history through those who lived it creates a powerful method to deliver the program. Program components provide sensitive reception and hospitality to men, women and children from all over the world.

For visitors to encounter those who experienced the events of September 11th at the site of the disaster will be an unforgettable way to preserve the history of this extraordinary time. With the assistance of a formal training program, Tribute volunteers will be able to help visitors understand the events of September 11th while forming a personal connection with those who experienced it. Programming will be carefully reviewed and approved by Tribute's design and program committees. Our primary goal for the center is to create a powerful and memorable connection between the 9/11 community and visitors looking for information.

Programs will remember the events of February 26, 1993 at the World Trade Center and the six lives lost. The events of September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA will be represented through programs that convey the events and lives lost. Tribute will also be a vehicle for the 9/11 community to express appreciation for the overwhelming support extended by individuals from around the world. Construction and day-to-day operations will depend upon individual, foundation and corporate donations. As we look upon tomorrow, we must remember September 11th as a turning point for humanity. By sharing its living history, we will have a profound impact upon visitors. We are called on to pass on the memories of our loved ones and to communicate the lessons we've learned. We work today so that future generations may understand the magnitude of events that changed our nation's history.

Family members who are interested in participating in the development or volunteering at the Tribute Visitors' Center are welcome to register at the September 11<sup>th</sup> Families Association web site [www.911families.org](http://www.911families.org).

