



**OFFICE OF FAMILY
SUPPORT-Serving**
*Connecticut families who lost
loved ones in the September
11th terrorists' attacks.*

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VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND OR LAWSUIT?

The National Center for Victims of Crime invites 9/11 family members to attend an educational forum, "Critical Choices: Federal Victim Compensation Fund or Civil Lawsuits." This free forum is being held on Monday, June 30th 6:00-9:00 PM at the Sheraton Stamford Hotel, 2701 Summer St. Stamford, CT.

The program provides objective information about the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and information about the option of filing a civil lawsuit.

If you have already decided to pursue one of these courses of action, the forum may still be a valuable source of information about how to make your compensation claim or lawsuit as effective as possible.

You can reserve your space by calling 1-800-394-2255.

Registration begins one hour before the forum. A light meal will be served. Sign language interpreting is available upon request.

Founded in 1985, the National Center for Victims of Crime is the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization for crime victims. They're offering the Forum to help ensure that victims understand their options and have the support they need to make thoughtful, informed decisions. They are not advocating any particular choice. For more information visit their web site at www.ncvc.org



Mary Fetchet, Co-Chair of Voices and mother of Brad Fetchet who was killed at the WTC.

Voices of September 11th offers individual support groups for adolescents, college students, parents, spouses and extended family members. All are free and facilitated by a licensed, clinical social worker at their office at 191 Main St., New Canaan. Contact Voices at 203-966-3911.

9/11 RELATED DISPUTE?

Are you in conflict with family members over 9/11 related issues? Mediation may be the tool to assist you. Mediation provides a fair environment where people in conflict can discuss their concerns in an informal, private meeting. Impartial mediator teams guide the participants through a series of problem solving steps so they can find their own solutions. Mediators do not make decisions but rather help the parties to discuss their viewpoints, generate new options and create effective solutions.

The Safe Horizon Mediation Program provides mediators that are familiar with victim and family concerns including the Federal Victims Compensation Fund and custody/ visitation issues. For more information, e-mail SHVolunteer@aol.com or contact Alan Gross at 212-760-1333.

DEADLINE TO REMEMBER

The final postmark date to file a federal Victim Compensation Fund claim is December 21, 2003.

MESSAGES FROM THE MEMORIAL BOARD

“Thank you for the touching reminder of how precious life is and how lucky we are to wake up to greet a new day in a country where we are free to be all that we can be. So many smiles extinguished on 9/11, so many laughs silenced, so many dreams shattered. Thank you to the families of the victims for sharing these precious moments and mementos of their loved ones. The love and uniqueness of each person shines from the display.”

“Before I saw this display I was caught up in my own depression and hopelessness. It made me realize I can go on again as the families have. Thanks to the families who shared this most intimate and painful parts of their lives.” Merrigold

“I just would like all the families to know that their loved ones are remembered by us everyday-we will not forget them or the loved ones left behind. This memorial reminds us how special each victim was-God bless you all!”

“I am so grateful that I was able to view this tribute to those Connecticut residents who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Though they were snatched away from us in a senseless and deplorable act of violence their spirits live on and implore us to remember how each of them made this world a better place. They are truly heroes that will not be forgotten.”

“I feel honored that we were able to have this beautiful memorial at the Cheshire Town Hall. So many Cheshire residents have been able to stop in to view this display. The reaction of this display has been incredible. As I walked by the display each day I felt like I was walking by a “wall of angels.” It was like all these beautiful, vibrant people were looking down at me smiling and saying silently, ‘its alright-it’s going to be alright, we

The Memorial Board and the Quilts prepared by CT’s 9/11 families will be on display at the New Haven Post Office at 50 Brewery Street. The display will move to the East Lyme Town Hall in early July. Please contact us if you would like the Memorial Board and quilts to appear in your town. You can see photos of the Memorial Board at www.cthelps.state.ct.us

are all here as guardians and to watch over and keep everyone safe.’ I wish all the families my thanks for sharing this powerful display with us. My thoughts and prayers are with you always.” AM



STATE COUNCIL READIES FOR NEXT DISASTER

Several months ago Joe Fiorito of Stamford wrote, “The greater the tragedy, the more good that must follow in its wake.” Mr. Fiorito lost his brother John in the World Trade Center attacks.

The profound lessons of 9/11 re-defined state government. Under the leadership of the Office of Emergency Management, the Connecticut Helps Oversight Council is preparing to respond to crises through a health and human service infrastructure of 18 state agencies and voluntary organizations.

Governor Rowland formed the Council shortly after the September 2001 tragedy to ensure an effective state response. Today, it continues to discuss 9/11 relief activities, but perhaps more importantly the Council is planning for future disasters.

In the event of a major disaster Connecticut’s citizens expectantly look to the State for help. To that end the Council is ready to identify the needs of people requiring services, coordinate statewide resources and to track affected individuals and the services provided.

The lessons of 9/11 and other crises enabled the Council to

create an Operations Manual for coordinating its long-term recovery efforts. Justifiably, the manual is dedicated “to the Connecticut citizens who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and to the families who loved them.” It’s flexible enough for use in all emergencies, natural or man made, and yet explicit enough to be useful.

Recognizing that times of crises are inevitable, the Council stands by as a partnership of caring for the people of Connecticut. It’s another reminder of how far we have come and how much farther we have yet to go.

STATE RESOURCES EXTENDED

The Family & Children's Agency and United Way of Connecticut recently announced that they would remain a resource for CT’s 9/11 families through October 31, 2003. Since many of Family & Children’s Agency Outreach staff have been re-assigned all inquiries for assistance should now be directed to Andrew Steglitz, Recovery Initiative Director ASteglitz@FCAgency.org or 203-855-8765.

The 9/11 staff and services of the United Way of Connecticut remains the same. They can be reached at 866-284-3577 ext. 5213 or Casework.Margaret@ctunitedway.org.



Wanda and Samuel Rieger Ph.D, organizers of Connecticut’s annual Melanie Ilene Rieger Memorial Conference Against Violence. Melanie’s picture is in the background. Dr. Rieger is past president of Survivor’s of Homicide Inc. a group of families trying to cope with the murder of a family member. For more information visit their website at www.survivorsofhomicide.com or telephone toll free 888-833-4764.