



WTC RELIEF FUND REPORT

CAS REPORTS ON ITS WORLD TRADE CENTER RELIEF EFFORTS

OCTOBER 2002

The Generosity of Corporations and Foundations Sustains The Children's Aid Society's Ongoing 9/11 Efforts

An outpouring of generosity from corporations and foundations has yielded over \$25.3 million to date toward our WTC relief efforts.

By the end of the current fiscal year in June 2003, The Children's Aid Society will have spent or committed \$18.9 million.

Last fiscal year, which ended June 2002, we spent \$4.65 million for mental health and other special programs to support our WTC families. This fiscal year, we anticipate spending \$2.0 million for these programs plus the new Hope Academy teen peer training program and the Overcoming Obstacles program, a life skills curriculum in our community schools.

In addition, we will spend over \$6.25 million on aid for primary victims' families and displaced workers, including cash relief for rent and mortgage payments, utility bills, food certificates, medications, funerals and other immediate needs.

By June 2003, The Children's Aid Society also will have spent or committed \$6.0 million in long-term scholarship assistance for families of direct victims, including child care and pre-kindergarten through college tuition, job training, career assistance and graduate school for spouses who need additional training.

Since our April report, we have received a

number of new grants that are helping to sustain our work with families who were impacted by the tragedy.

Melaleuca, a producer of health-related products based in Idaho, has established the Melaleuca 9/11 Victims Relief Fund, which exceeds \$800,000, a portion of which will help CAS support low-income families that lost a primary wage earner or whose primary wage earner lost employment as a result of the tragedy.

A \$50,000 gift from **AOL Time Warner** is supporting a specialized therapeutic treatment program called "Family Day," for families that lost a relative. So far, we have held three "Family Days" for families affiliated with two unions: Local 32BJ and Local 100, both of which represent hotel and service workers, including many from Windows on the World. **Relief International**, which typically supports underdeveloped countries in their transition to stability after crisis, has pledged \$112,000, primarily to help families cover the costs of childcare and early childhood education.

We are extremely appreciative to the **Freddie Mac Foundation** for its second gift of \$500,000, bringing its total giving to \$1.5 million, and to the **UBS Humanitarian Relief Fund** for its second gift of \$350,000, bringing its total

giving to \$850,000. **The Independence Community Foundation** and the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** have also made second donations, bringing their totals to \$145,954 and \$80,000 respectively.

Other donors to Children's Aid's WTC relief efforts include **Pearson**, a leading publishing company, which established its Pearson 9/11 Scholarship Fund and endowed it with \$130,000 for scholarship support, from pre-K through post-secondary education. **Parente Randolph**, an accounting firm in Pennsylvania, donated \$25,000, also to be directed to costs of post-secondary education for children who lost a relative to the tragedy.

For five years, The Children's Aid Society has been a beneficiary of the **Emerging Markets Benefit**, an event sponsored by EM bond traders and salesman. This year, a percentage of the event's proceeds—\$30,000—was allocated to benefit the families of industry colleagues from Cantor Fitzgerald and EuroBrokers who died in the attack.

In addition to recognizing our donors for their generosity, we would also like to acknowledge the hard work, energy and creativity that have made the initiatives they have funded so successful.



A Healing Garden Grows in Staten Island

Children at The Children's Aid Society's Goodhue Center in Staten Island dug and planted a Healing Garden on the anniversary of September 11th. They wanted to create a space where their parents, people from the community and kids can go to feel better about anything that's worrying them, not just the events of 9/11. They planted tulip bulbs, daisies, other flowers and a flowering shrub. Every child at the center worked on the garden that day and children will be taking care of it. Young Goodhue gardeners featured in foreground, left to right, are: Megan Beck, 12; Chloe Lim, 11; Alice Rose Gregory, 11; and Daria Lim, 11.

One Center's Response to 9/11

In the year since the World Trade Center attack, The Children's Aid Society's Frederick Douglass Center in Harlem has emerged as an important source of solace and support for a community struck hard by the tragedy.

Among the center's families, at least three parents and a grandparent were killed, leaving behind eight children who relied on our services. About 70 other children affiliated with the community center's programs were also affected when relatives died or their parents lost jobs and livelihoods.

In response, our staff reached out directly to support residents who lost loved ones. One, Maria George, a neighborhood resident with 30-year ties to the Frederick Douglass Center, stopped by almost daily to gather strength after the attack killed her husband, an elevator repairman, as well as her son, a cleaner. She was left in charge of her grandsons, Javan and Samari, 9 and 11.

Emergency assistance from Children's Aid helped cover funeral costs and eventually enabled the two boys to return to the Caribbean to live with their mother. Relief funds also paid for their return to New York City this summer to see their grandmother and to attend our Wagon Road Camp in Chappaqua. We are now providing long-term case management to Mrs. George and her grandchildren.

Individual counseling, support groups and art therapy are also being provided for victim families in the Frederick Douglass neighborhood. One mother in the community is now raising several children on her own, including a baby who was not yet born when his father was killed in the terrorist strike. The mother attends our weekly support group for widows, the most fragile son receives weekly individual

counseling and we have arranged for a homemaker to help with household management while the mother copes with grief.

In addition, our art therapist has visited their home to help prepare a memorial quilt for their father. Each child created something special for his or her square of the quilt—a drawing of their father, a picture of the towers falling, a letter written in the voice of the newborn, expressing the sadness he feels as he moves ahead in life without his dad. Communicating these feelings is painful but ultimately necessary, says art therapist Sarah Vollmann. "It helps with healing," she says.

To help these families as well as the larger community, the Frederick Douglass community center hosted a potluck dinner each Tuesday night for three months after the attack, bringing together as many as 200 adults and children each week to share food and feelings. The gym became a safe haven where neighbors and friends could express grief, recall old traumas and pain, and talk informally with social workers and counselors about how to help children overcome new nightmares, anxiety and fear. "We all sat in the gym and talked and shared," says Michelle James, the community center director. "Two gospel choirs performed. It was like a wake or sitting shiva."

Recently, the Frederick Douglass community held a candlelight vigil at the neighborhood's police and fire stations, where children presented flowers, cards and drawings to the neighborhood's uniformed heroes. The vigil provided closure for many in the community—yet those who lost loved ones will continue to rely on The Children's Aid Society in the months and years ahead.

New Exhibits, Book Extend 'Here is NY'

Here is New York, the internationally acclaimed exhibition of photographs of the events and aftermath of September 11th, has spun off a number of exhibitions across the U.S., Europe and Asia this autumn. Displays of the digital prints are on view in Florida, California, Ohio and Kentucky as well as in Washington, D.C., where 1,500 images, double the size of the original SoHo exhibit, are on view at the prestigious Corcoran Gallery of Art. The exhibit may also be seen in France, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Japan.

The moving, often wrenching images of the disaster were on display and for sale in New York as digital prints for \$25. The net proceeds, to date totaling \$650,000, have been donated to The Children's Aid Society for its WTC relief work.

The exhibit's organizers have also produced a book, "Here is New York: A Democracy of Photographs," a massive volume with over 800 images that are even more powerful when held in the hand and viewed up close. The book is in bookstores, and can be found at www.childrensaidsociety.org as well as hereisnewyork.org.

Helping Children Cope with 9/11 Concerns

As an agency long dedicated to the emotional well being of children and families, The Children's Aid Society was immediately concerned about the trauma and distress that would undoubtedly result from the events of September 11th. Within 24 hours, we had prepared a flyer for use in all our programs that provided guidance for adults (teachers, youth workers and parents) about talking with their children about the event, as well as how to detect signs of trouble.

Now, one year later, we have prepared a new guide, "Helping Children Cope with 9/11 Concerns," which is also intended to support adults who are caring for children and thus most likely to hear questions and concerns or detect signs of anxiety, fear or sadness.

The past year has been an emotional roller coaster for everyone and we realize that many children, teens and adults are still trying to make sense of what happened on September 11, 2001. The recent anniversary and its ensuing media coverage no doubt triggered a resurfacing of emotions for many people. "Helping Children Cope with 9/11 Concerns" recognizes that children react to stressful events differently from adults and in ways that may not be easy to identify. Furthermore, children at different stages of development are likely to react in different ways.

In our guide, CAS's professionals provide several age-appropriate suggestions for helping children who might be experiencing ongoing trauma-related behaviors and feelings, or who may refuse to discuss the event but show some behavioral impacts.

The Children's Aid Society has been working with children who were affected by this tragedy on many levels, including those who lost a parent, those whose parent escaped from the buildings, workers who are now displaced, those who directly witnessed the attack and those who were not directly affected, but suffer nonetheless. For these children especially, whose feelings may be more ambiguous and whom we are not reaching with targeted interventions such as grief counseling, continuing reassurance from parents and teachers is extraordinarily important.

The guide is posted on our website, www.childrensaidsociety.org.