

Dear Families:

It has been said that memorials are the way we make "promises to the future about the past." [1] The National September 11 Memorial & Museum are being built to preserve memory, to honor terrorism's innocent victims, and to educate for a better future. As our institution bears solemn witness to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993, we are equally committed to imagining a world where the threat of terrorism does not exist. By paying tribute to the 2,980 victims of the attacks, the Memorial Museum will demonstrate the consequences of terrorism on individual lives and its impact on families and communities. Families are at the heart of the 9/11 story; the great tragedy of terrorism is that it targets real people - mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. That is why your participation in the building of the Memorial Museum is so essential.

As we plan and design the exhibitions for the National September 11 Memorial Museum, we are dedicated to preserving the memory of each victim of the September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 attacks. As those who experienced that day, we share a solemn obligation to ensure that the history is passed on to our children and to every generation that follows. Through various media oral histories, digital archives, artifacts and expressions of tribute, the Memorial Museum will ensure that the lives of every one of the victims will be remembered for generations to come.

We would like to extend to you and your family a heartfelt invitation to participate in two of our core partnership programs: **9/11 Living Memorial**, a memory-capture project of Voices of September 11th, a national 9/11 family advocacy and services group; and **StoryCorps September 11th Initiative**, a program of Sound Portraits Productions, Inc. affiliated with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. We are honored to be working with these important organizations to create a vast collection of digitally-preserved and orally-recorded memories that will help us achieve the goal of individually honoring every one of the irreplaceable victims of these terrorist attacks.

In addition, we welcome you and your extended family and friends to help us build the permanent collection of the Memorial Museum by considering the donation of photographs, memorabilia, personal effects, and other materials that are testaments to the lives and experiences of your loved ones.

[More information on these partnerships and programs can be found by clicking here.](#)

The effort to build the Memorial & Museum is advancing with significant progress on many fronts, and we invite you to read about this progress in our [2007 year end update](#). To date, individual donations from over 60,000 people in all 50 states and 30 foreign countries have helped to raise over \$325 million, bringing

our \$350 million capital campaign within reach. Over the past year, the Museum has moved forward with exhibition design planning and the acquisition of key artifacts. We also took a touring exhibition about the Memorial & Museum to 25 cities in 25 states in 2007, and were extraordinarily moved by the outpouring of support we witnessed for the project across the nation. Visitors from small towns and big cities came together to pay tribute to those who were killed in the attacks and those who helped our nation recover. We were humbled as we watched parents walk their children through the exhibition, sometimes with tears in their eyes, explaining to the younger generation what happened and how people across America and the world responded. And, as each visitor was invited to sign a steel beam that will become part of the foundational structure of the Memorial & Museum, we were deeply moved to see their expressions of pride and gratitude, knowing that now they too were part of this historic endeavor.

Your participation in building this Memorial Museum is so meaningful to us. We sincerely hope you will consider helping us realize our mission of remembrance, education and inspiration by participating in the Voices of September 11th Living Memorial, by agreeing to record a StoryCorps interview and by entrusting to our care materials that will enable us to preserve and honor the memory of your loved ones.

In the months to come, we look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress, and of other opportunities to share information about your loved ones at the Memorial Museum.

Warm regards,



Joseph C. Daniels
President & CEO



Alice M. Greenwald
Director, Memorial Museum

If you received this email from a list other than the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, we invite you to visit www.national911memorial.org/familyinfo to join a network of interested readers who receive ongoing correspondence about the Memorial & Museum.

[1][1] Kristin Ann Hass, *Carried to the Wall*. University of California Press, 1998, page 38.