



# RESPONDER NEWS

Stony Brook WTC Health and Wellness- Fall 2021



Dear Responders,

This Fall remains a time of intense reflection for our community. As we have been watching the world honor the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, our thoughts remain with you, your families, and our years together. This is the second year in a row that we have not been able to be together at our annual picnic. We have always held them around this time of year in our efforts to be with you- the people we are honored to support. We want to let you know that we are thinking about all we have built together, and all we will continue to do for you.

Looking ahead, our aim is to show you, our responders, our sincere efforts to honor and elevate your legacy. "We will never forget" are cherished words. Indeed, we have not forgotten, nor ever will. In that vein, we will remain steadfast in our work to provide you with a health and wellness home that is a place of healthcare, support, and understanding. You will always be invited to take part in programs designed especially for you.

Please explore our new website: [www.stonybrookmedicine.edu/WTC](http://www.stonybrookmedicine.edu/WTC) .Web media is just one way for us to stay connected. We are always just a phone call away, and remain humbled by this privilege to continue to serve you and our greater community.

Warmly,  
The Stony Brook WTC Health and Wellness Team



Port Jefferson Village, Patriots Day, 2021



"We're Not Leaving", published in 2011

All of us here on the Stony Brook WTC Health and Wellness team thank you for the ongoing privilege to be part of the unique, important work we have been doing within our responder community. The phrase "comprehensive care" deepens in meaning to us with each passing year. Comprehensiveness in care means fostering the connectivity, trust and togetherness that we always strive to ensure we have with every member of our Clinical Center of Excellence.

No matter past, present, or future, we will always continue to put a premium on access to high-quality care for WTC responders. This will always be done by educating people about the lifelong impacts of 9/11, the WTC Health Program, and the range of support available to eligible Program members. Our voices on behalf of WTC responders will remain strong and amplified with each passing year. Supporting and empowering this community will remain the heart of our mission in ways that extend beyond our clinic doors. Thank you again for this privilege to serve, and for letting us remain a part of your lives.



Commack state-of-the-art clinic grand opening, 2017



WTC Responder Comedy event, 2013

60 Minutes, 2011





Long Island Ducks game, 2013

VCF Informational, 2013

Annual Responder Picnic, 2015

Clinic ribbon cutting ceremony, 2009



Remembering 9/11 project, 2015



Healthcare award, 2013



Dr. Luft participates in a federal panel about the ongoing impacts of 9/11 twenty years later, 2021



An ordinary day.  
 A class full of children just off the bus to stay.  
 The principal turned to me and said,  
 "I think you have a call.  
 It's your Red Cross Disaster Team and I know you have to go.  
 We will think of you back here at school and keep your children safe."  
 I called my family, "I'll be fine. I'll call you when I get some time."  
 We headed out, to the horrific scene.

The dust, the smoke, the smell lingered on.  
 An eerie silence fell all around.  
 The Towers had really crumbled to the ground.  
 It looked like a movie, so make believe, as we stood and stared in such dismay:  
 Would they be OK?  
 Would they be alive?  
 Where are the firemen, police and rescue that risk their lives in vain?  
 The city is different now— will it ever be the same?

The hope started to fade as days lingered on by.  
 We were sent to the Compassion Center on Lexington Avenue to pick up supplies.  
 People lined up at the gate, with pictures in hand of loved ones now lost.  
 "Did you see my son, my daughter, my Mom, or my Dad? This is the best picture I have."  
 They held candles, held hands and started to pray.  
 We were breathless and speechless with not a word to say, as we loaded our Emergency Vehicle  
 and drove away.

We headed for a shelter, where we would have to stay.  
 As I got out at 2 A.M., a man limped up to me.  
 Holes in his shoes, a glove on one hand, the other hand filled with change.  
 "I lost where I live under that dust and stone. I lived under there.  
 That was my home, but I'm a vet and as American and I still care, so take this change,  
 It's all that I've got.  
 I want to help, I know its not a lot."  
 As the man turned away, he looked at me, smiled and gave me a wave.  
 I thought this is no longer an Ordinary Day.

As we worked at Ground Zero, the President climbed on top of the twisted metal to say,  
 "I'm here for you, we won't forget, GOD BLESS THE USA."  
 As we walked away on that September Day,  
 People lined the street, waved flags and shouted with pride.  
 I cannot express the feeling it left with me deep inside.

As we head out to Penn Station, the train is full-not a seat to be taken.  
 My body exhausted, my heart aching, I grab my gear and head for home.  
 A stranger shakes my hand, "I'll pay your fare. Thanks. You're not alone."  
 We were sent to rescue them, but there was not one left to save.  
 The guilt now hits me hard as the train pulls away.

I may be different now since those September days.  
 Maybe it's just a dream.  
 When I wake up at night and see images of people so helpless with faces full of fright;  
 So many people, so much loss and pain.  
 Lives have changed and will never be the same.  
 Sometimes life isn't always what it seems.  
 But you are one of the lucky ones, you still have your hopes and dreams.  
 I realize life is so precious and can all be whisked away, turned to dust in moments  
 On an Ordinary Day.

## ORDINARY DAY

A Poem  
 by JAK,  
 WTC Responder

In commemoration of  
 the 20th anniversary of 9/11



Commemorating the traditional ringing of the Bell of Hope in salute to the fallen, St. Paul's Churchyard

**September 11 Community 2021 Calling of the Names Ceremony Saint Paul's Chapel, NYC**  
Deceased heroes who took part in the World Trade Center rescue and recovery efforts following the events of September 11, 2001 were honored at this annual ceremony in downtown Manhattan...now 20 years later.  
We at the Stony Brook WTC Health and Wellness Program thank ceremony director, Barbara Horn, and everyone who took part in hosting it. We remain deeply humbled to have been part of it.



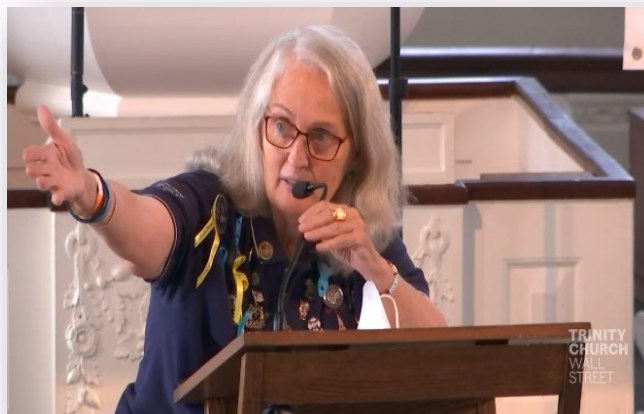
St. Pauls' Chapel, Trinity Church, 9/11/2021



Stony Brook WTC Health and Wellness Program Administrative Deputy Director, Julie Broihier



9/11 Calling of the Names Ceremony Director, Barbara Horn





**THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR  
HOSTING NESCONSET PARK'S  
2021 NAMING CEREMONY**

Stony Brook WTC Health and Wellness team members took part in the crowd of hundreds as the FealGood Foundation and 911 Responders Remembered Park, Inc. hosted a very heartfelt ceremony on 9/18/2021.



**Thank you to the Middle Country Library for hosting our *Meet a 9/11 Responder* event this year!**

**We were very happy to have WTC Responders Raphael and Carol join us to facilitate our evening of conversation, reflection and commemoration with community members in special honor of the 20th anniversary of 9/11.**



### **Get to Know Our Remembering 9/11 Curriculum**

The ongoing impacts of 9/11 makes it important to make sure it is taught about in our schools in the most comprehensive, compassionate manner. We at the Stony Brook WTC Health and Wellness Program have a cost-free, NYS Standards approved curriculum with lesson plans that can be tailored across various classrooms for students in grades 9-12. Interested in learning more? Give us a call or visit <https://www.stonybrookmedicine.edu/wtc/education/foreducators>





WTC Health Program

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Visit us at: [stonybrookmedicine.edu/wtc](http://stonybrookmedicine.edu/wtc)  
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