

ROBIN

HOOD

9.11.01

YEAR THREE REPORT
ROBIN HOOD RELIEF FUND

ROBIN HOOD RELIEF COMMITTEE

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DIRK ZIFF, *Chair 9.01–2.03*

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ANNA SCOTT

HEMA SHENOI

CARRON SHERRY

CRISTINA TEUSCHER

and the entire Robin Hood team

Paul Jones



For ten years, I worked across the street from the World Trade Center. It's what I saw out my window. But on September 11, 2001, I was in my office in Connecticut frantically trying to locate family and friends when one of my colleagues walked in and asked, "What's Robin Hood doing to help?"

I looked at him like he was crazy. Robin Hood's offices were adjacent to the World Trade Center, and all the staff hadn't even been accounted for yet. Besides, we were a poverty fighting organization. We weren't in the business of disaster relief.

Then the phones started ringing. Donors were calling Robin Hood board members encouraging us to get involved in the recovery effort. They wanted to give money and they trusted Robin Hood to spend it effectively. After much debate, we decided to set up the Robin Hood Relief Fund 36 hours after the attacks.

Robin Hood's offices were uninhabitable because they were across the street from ground zero, but Robin Hood board member Lachlan Murdoch quickly made space available so our staff could get to work. Even before they had desks, our staff contacted every Robin Hood grant recipient to get first-hand information about the impact of the attacks on people in their communities. All of the organizations were overwhelmed and desperate for help to cope with the crisis.

To handle the urgency, Robin Hood created a special board committee to oversee the Relief Fund. Dirk Ziff volunteered

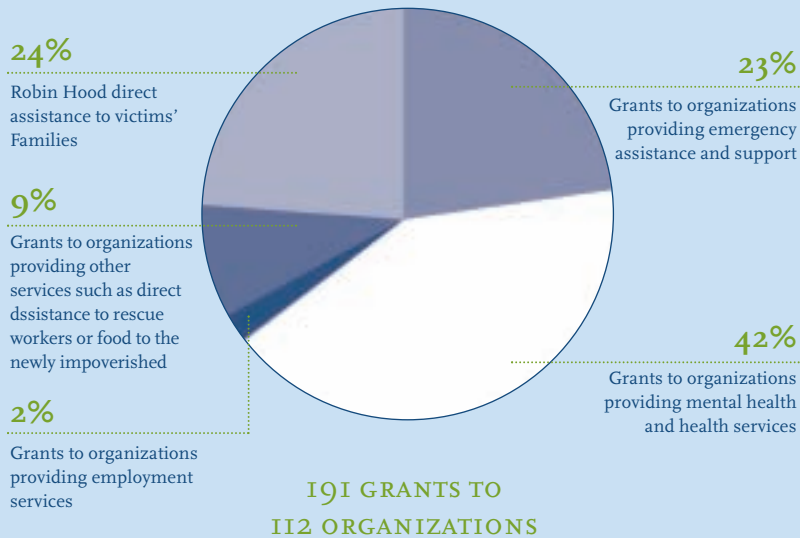
to be the chair and five other board members joined him to take on what they knew was going to be a herculean task. The work this group has done is nothing short of extraordinary. For the first nine months, they met every week to grapple with the tough decisions that needed to be made; and later in the process, they continued to meet on a bi-weekly and then monthly basis. I remember feeling guilty on Friday afternoons and evenings when they were meeting and working and I was unwinding with my family. These folks were our heroes.

The Relief Committee immediately established three fundamental parameters. In keeping with Robin Hood's mission, we would focus on low-income victims of September 11th and people who would otherwise fall through the cracks; all overhead expenses would be underwritten by the board to ensure that 100 percent of donations went directly to relief efforts; and our grant making would be transparent with every grant posted on the Robin Hood website.

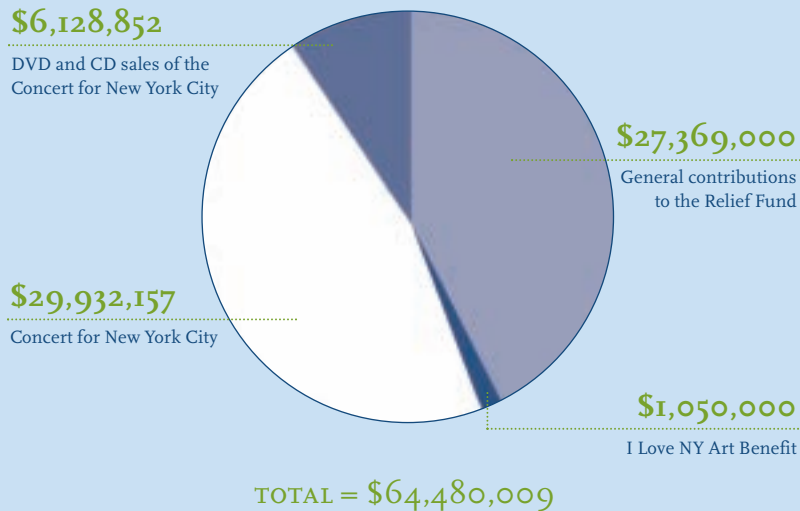
Three years and \$64.5 million after September 11th, the Relief Fund is ready to end its active grant-making. This special edition of our newsletter will give you a look into the work of the Relief Fund.

I could not be prouder of what the Relief Committee and the Robin Hood staff have accomplished. While the weight of nearly 3,000 lives lost is a burden never to be lifted, knowing that with your generosity we've been able to help tens of thousands of people diminishes the despair and gives us all hope. WE THANK YOU.

WHERE THE MONEY WENT:



WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM:



David Saltzman



On September 11, 2001, Robin Hood's staff and I were among the thousands who fled from downtown. One staff member left the Trade Center as the first plane hit. She arrived in our offices across the street covered in glass with a broken rib from having been nearly trampled to death. As she, other staff members and I made our way up the FDR Drive, we needed a place to rest and ended up at Community Access, a housing program for the homeless and mentally ill supported by Robin Hood. Without knowing we were from Robin Hood, the residents took us in, gave us water and let us use the phones. To me, that moment embodies everything great about New York City.

As an organization, Robin Hood experienced most aspects of September 11th. One of our staff members lost a father. Another lost a brother. We lost friends. We couldn't return to our offices. After settling into temporary space, we were forced to move again when the building became the target of anthrax attacks. September 11th was never something that happened to someone else. That is why it was such a privilege to be able to do our part to help the relief effort.

Looking back, I am inspired by the dedication and generosity that made the work of the Robin Hood Relief Fund possible. I am enormously grateful to Robin Hood's donors. You were the ones who first encouraged us to get involved, and then you gave generously. As always, you made our work possible.

The Robin Hood Relief Fund Committee ensured that the Relief Fund was administered wisely and effectively. The Committee's work reinforced my belief that Robin Hood board members are the most magnanimous and dedicated volunteers in New York City.

What my colleagues on Robin Hood's staff accomplished under difficult conditions in the days and years that followed September 11th fills me with admiration. In particular, I would like to thank Emary Aronson, the Director of our Relief Fund for her tireless efforts and outstanding leadership. She set an example for us all.

I marvel at the life-saving work of the men and women who work for the programs supported by the Robin Hood Relief Fund. I am lucky to witness their selflessness on a daily basis.

Our thanks to everyone who made the work of the Robin Hood Relief Fund possible. Together we will continue to help, mourn, and remember.

Dirk Ziff



There was no road map at our first Relief Committee meeting. Questions dramatically outnumbered answers: How should “victim” be defined? How would various charities coordinate their actions to avoid duplication? What should be our focus?

We decided to find and fund the best organizations serving people impacted by September 11th, particularly groups assisting people in poverty who would be least likely to seek or receive services. We also wanted to support the families of heroes killed in the line of duty.

The Committee was guided by the principles we inherited from Robin Hood. When faced with difficult decisions, more than once in our meetings, I heard fellow Robin Hood board members, Pete Kiernan and Peter Borish ask, “What would be the Robin Hood way of handling this?” In other words, are we doing what’s right versus what is expedient?

There are two examples that stand out in my mind. Small grassroots organizations were besieged with undocumented immigrants desperate for help. Because of their illegal status, these victims were afraid to go through the official channels that had been set up to coordinate social services for victims’ families. In November 2001, Robin Hood was among the first relief organizations to help undocumented immigrants. The second example arose a month later and provoked our most intense meeting. Initially, we did not think our role in the broader relief effort included providing direct financial assistance to victims’ families, but circumstances were such that we decided we needed to do the right thing, whether it was our responsibility or not. Robin Hood became a de facto detective agency creating the most accurate list of victims’ families available anywhere and using it to send them money before the holidays.

Each meeting of our Relief Committee included intense and passionate debates. There were a lot of suppressed tears and a few that came out. As painful and taxing as the experience often was, more than anything else, it was a privilege. We thank you for your confidence in our stewardship.

ROBIN HOOD RELIEF FUND

- ➔ ONE OF THE TEN LARGEST SEPTEMBER 11TH FUNDS
- ➔ 191 GRANTS ALLOCATED TO 112 ORGANIZATIONS
- ➔ MORE THAN \$17.8 MILLION WAS GRANTED TO ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH VICTIMS’ FAMILIES; \$11 MILLION TO ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH RESCUE WORKERS AND \$20 MILLION TO ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH LOW INCOME VICTIMS. \$15.7 WENT DIRECTLY TO VICTIMS’ FAMILIES
- ➔ IN YEAR ONE, \$5.1 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED TO MENTAL HEALTH; IN YEAR TWO, \$10.1 MILLION AND IN YEAR THREE, \$12.6 MILLION
- ➔ IN YEAR ONE, \$10.8 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES; IN YEAR TWO, \$4.3 MILLION AND IN YEAR THREE, \$300,000
- ➔ GRANTS RANGED IN SIZE FROM \$3,000 TO \$7.6 MILLION. THE AVERAGE GRANT WAS \$350,000. THE MEDIAN GRANT WAS APPROXIMATELY \$100,000



SEPTEMBER 11TH FACTS

- ➔ 2,974 PEOPLE WERE KILLED ON SEPTEMBER 11TH: 2,749 AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, 184 AT THE PENTAGON, AND 41 IN PENNSYLVANIA
- ➔ 75,000 JOBS WERE LOST IN NEW YORK CITY FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 11TH
- ➔ 14,632 BUSINESSES WERE DESTROYED, DAMAGED OR SIGNIFICANTLY DISRUPTED
- ➔ 15 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE WAS DESTROYED OR RENDERED TEMPORARILY USELESS
- ➔ BEST ESTIMATES ARE THAT 60 PERCENT OF THE JOBS LOST WERE THOSE OF LOW WAGE WORKERS

VICTIMS IN ETHNIC COMMUNITIES



Akm Chowdhury, (center) lost his son, Abul, in the World Trade Center. He now works full-time at SACSS with Diya Kallivayalil (right) and Sudha Acharya, President of SACSS (left)

The victims of September 11th were as diverse as the city of New York. Within the first six months of operation, the Relief Fund determined that the most effective way to help victims' families was through organizations that worked within the various ethnic communities.

Many long-standing organizations such as the Young Korean American Service and Education Center expanded their services to address the crises created by September 11th in their communities. Initially, the Center served as translators, but in time provided social services to Koreans affected by September 11th.

Some organizations were created as a result of September 11th to meet specific needs. When Dina and Jonathan Leader found out there was no one to assist Russian-speaking families, they began Project Empowerment to provide counseling and advocacy for Russian speaking victims' families, many of whom were elderly parents who relied on their sons for support.

One story underscores the necessity of ethnic based services. When a Muslim son went missing after September 11th, the family was accused in the media of having links to Al Qaeda. In reality, the son was a paramedic who rushed to the towers when the planes hit and died in the attacks. The South Asian Council for Social Services (SACSS) has continued to help this family (the young man's father recently died of cancer). Before September 11th, SACSS was an all volunteer agency providing social services to the members of its immigrant community. Three years after September 11th, many victims' families still rely heavily on the organization for counseling and support.

FAMILIES OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

“Through my church, I was working with the families on Staten Island. With the help of Robin Hood, I am about to launch my own organization to help the 270 victims’ families on Staten Island as well as the over 1,100 families I have had contact with around the country. Robin Hood has been there to find me lawyers so I could incorporate, guide me in building my board and provide support in every way.”

DENNIS MCKEON, PRESIDENT, WHERE TO TURN
(AN ORGANIZATION THAT WILL OFFER CASE
MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION TO ANY
SEPTEMBER 11TH FAMILIES IN CRISIS.)

BECAUSE OF ROBIN HOOD’S IN-HOUSE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE, THE RELIEF FUND WAS ABLE TO SUPPORT GROUPS MEETING THE NEEDS OF TARGET COMMUNITIES, WHETHER THEY WERE START-UPS OR ORGANIZATIONS TAKING ON NEW CHALLENGES.



MaryEllen Salamone, who lost her husband, President of Families of September 11th with her children, Alex, Aidan and Anna.

Very early on, in the days when victims’ families first started meeting one another at memorials and government offices, a woman who had lost her mother on one of the planes, organized Families of September 11. The goal was for victims families to share information and support one another. Robin Hood became the organization’s first private donor and membership grew to 1,500 families who lost a loved one.

Families of September 11th established a website and posted new information as it became available, they sent notices to families alerting them of opportunities, and they created an online forum so that members, even ones isolated across the country or overseas, could connect with other victims’ families. Families of September 11th became the national clearinghouse of information for victims’ families.

Families continue to rely on the organization three years after the tragedy. When an audio tape from one of the airplanes was released to the media, distraught members turned to the agency for support and information. Three employees run the small New York City office and seven board members, all of whom lost a loved one in the attacks, remain committed to helping families cope with this tragedy.

PHOTOS: WILLIAM COUPON

LATIN AMERICAN WORKER'S PROJECT



Ground Zero cleanup workers with respiratory problems receive medical referrals from Oscar Paredes, Executive Director of LAWP.

The constituency of the Latin American Worker's Project (LAWP) may be the most hidden and voiceless of all September 11th victims. While fires still burned and clouds of smoke hung over Ground Zero, cleaning crews were dispatched to make the buildings in the surrounding areas habitable again. The majority of those crews were undocumented immigrants hired as day laborers off the streets. Without protective gear of any kind, not even face masks, these immigrants cleaned the ducts and offices of dust and debris. Months later, they began to suffer shortness of breath, headaches and constant nose bleeds. With no health insurance and no way to support their families because they were too ill to work, they ended up at LAWP.

Before September 11th, LAWP was a tiny organization providing services for the immigrant (predominantly undocumented) communities of Williamsburg and Bushwick, Brooklyn. After September 11th, because of its strong reputation in the community, more than 1,000 Latin American day laborers turned to LAWP for help. They got the workers health screenings, which determined that nearly all of them had lead poisoning or respiratory illness. With Robin Hood assistance, LAWP provided emergency assistance, and continues to seek out and help undocumented workers get medical care.

BELLEVUE/NYU PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

Survivors of Torture is a hospital-based program which co-locates medical and social services for people who have fled torture in other countries. For those who have suffered prior trauma, the effect of September 11th was particularly devastating. 30 of the people working with Survivors of Torture were directly impacted and required longer and more intensive treatment as a result.

One female war-trauma survivor was residing in downtown Manhattan on September 11th. When the police came to evacuate the building, she would not let them in. The presence of police triggered severe emotional reactions related to her experiences during the war, such as being beaten, raped, and taken away from her family. Since she spoke no English, there was no one who could calm her down. When the police did get in, they found her huddled in a corner, doing her best to shield herself from the brutality she was sure would follow. Another young man who had seen his family executed before his eyes in Africa, worked as a janitor in the North Tower. He left minutes before the planes hit to get breakfast and watched as he lost his only friend and few belongings.

Robin Hood is working with Survivors of Torture to make sure that these individuals and others in their situation get the therapy and services they need to cope and to continue to live productive lives.

Victoria Bjorklund



In our first few months, we concentrated on providing emergency assistance. In December 2001, the Relief Committee sought the advice of Nancy Anthony, who had directed relief efforts following the Oklahoma City bombing. Dr. Anthony knew all too well the effects of terrorism. When asked what issues would need our attention in the coming months, she replied: “Mental health, mental health, and mental health.” She described a delayed reaction to the trauma in Oklahoma City that included suicides, addiction, and domestic violence.

Mental health services are stigmatized in many communities, making people reluctant to seek help. To overcome that, we created a strategy for addressing mental health needs after September 11th. We worked with organizations where people, especially low-income families, received other services and co-located mental health support. We increased the capacity of organizations in immigrant communities to deliver culturally sensitive and language-appropriate therapy. And, we worked with agencies that went into schools to provide counseling for children.

The consequences of not dealing with children’s mental health are dire. Unaddressed issues escalate over time leading to far deeper problems that could have been avoided. Even with help, the terrain is treacherous. Students, who were ninth graders on September 11th at the High School of Leadership and Public Service, located one block from the Trade Center, are now failing at twice the school’s normal rate.

Certainly, there are many people affected by September 11th who found ways to cope. But just as certainly, there are many who have not. Recognizing this, even though the Relief Fund has ceased active grant-making, many of the grants we made provide funding for mental health services through 2005.

CHILDREN & MENTAL HEALTH

THE RELIEF FUND SUPPORTS GROUPS WORKING WITH CHILDREN WHO LOST A PARENT AND GROUPS WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS WHO HAVE BEEN TRAUMATIZED BY SEPTEMBER 11TH. HERE ARE TWO EXAMPLES:

NEW YORK PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE

September 11th marks the first time so many pregnant women experienced traumatic loss on the same day caused by the same event. Beatrice Beebe at Columbia Presbyterian began a research project on the effect of grief on widows who were pregnant at the time of the attacks. By April 2002, Beebe and her team were providing counseling to the mothers, babies and other children in the families. Her program has had contact with 70 of the 103 widows in this situation. Beebe’s team is finding that many of the children, now toddlers, are language-delayed and most are fearful of strangers. These youngest victims of September 11th, who were not even born when it happened, have been imprinted by the tragedy. Fortunately, this program is providing therapeutic intervention.

CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF NEW YORK-PRESBYTERIAN

Fire drills now mean something completely different to many school children; they react as though they know something bad has happened. With support from the Relief Fund, Children’s Hospital has staffed five mental health clinics in elementary schools in Washington Heights, the fourth most affected community by September 11th. Together these schools serve over 5,600 children. By providing services on site, children receive care immediately and it prevents issues from developing into long-term problems. There was a decrease in the number of children referred to special education for behavioral issues and, for the most part, kids were absent less and were able to learn.

MENTAL HEALTH

DISASTER PSYCHIATRY OUTREACH & MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

In spring 2002, the Center for Disease Control awarded The Mount Sinai-Irving J. Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine a grant to provide medical assessments and referrals for civilian iron and construction workers, plumbers, electricians, and volunteers who worked alongside the firefighters at ground zero. (Additional money was set aside for the firefighters.) At that time, no funds were designated to conduct mental health screenings of this population. Recognizing that this would be a missed opportunity, the Relief Fund supported Disaster Psychiatry Outreach (a group of volunteer psychiatrists who respond to disasters) and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry to provide the mental health component.

With the Relief Fund's grants, Disaster Psychiatry Outreach and Mount Sinai have screened nearly 8,000 workers from ground zero. (The screening instruments have become known as "the Robin Hood" and the reputation of this survey has spread.) The screening found unexpectedly high trauma rates—nearly 60 percent of those screened required further evaluation. 2,000 workers were referred into treatment. Some 80 percent opted to receive their mental health counseling at Mount Sinai and part of the Relief Fund's grant supports this in-house treatment. Every 18 months the workers are expected to return to be re-screened.

STEVE STATHIS



Steve Stathis, President of Graybeards, at the Breezy Point September 11th memorial on the tip of the Rockaway peninsula. The memorial was built from debris recovered at Ground Zero.

"I'm a safety specialist for Con Ed. I reached the towers after they collapsed. I was there for 18 days, 16 hours a day, every day. Everybody in my neighborhood of Rockaway was affected. A lot of guys were police and firemen, or ironworkers. Both my son and brother are firemen. My son worked the pile on recovery, being lowered on a rope into crevices to retrieve victims' remains. None of us were doing well. I couldn't sleep, couldn't control my emotions, we coughed all the time. Then flight 587 crashed in our neighborhood on November 12th. I watched it tear through my friend's house, killing his wife and son. It was then my buddy Kevin called and asked, "Why don't the Graybeards do something?" The Graybeards was our basketball league—a bunch of fellas, all over 35 who played ball together and socialized. We always helped each other, now it was time to help more of our neighbors. 40 guys showed up at the first meeting. We had a million ideas and all kicked in dues. We knew that people in our community needed counseling, but it wasn't likely they would get it—even my own son. I encouraged him to get counseling and he said, 'My brothers,' meaning his fellow firefighters, 'are helping me.' I said, 'Your brothers can cook and they can put out fires, but they can't fix your head.' So we started sponsoring events and having counselors there. We began an art therapy program for the kids. Three years later, thanks to Robin Hood, we have psychologists working with us. Now you'll even hear guys comparing notes about their therapy. The Graybeards have gone far beyond what we ever dreamed of, again thanks to Robin Hood, but it's still the same idea. It's a bunch of guys helping their neighbors. And yeah, we still play basketball."

Diane Sawyer



Morning after heart-breaking morning in the weeks following September 11th, I interviewed women who had lost their husbands, men who had lost their wives, and parents who had lost their children. I believed, as did Robin Hood, that all victims' families would get whatever help they needed right away.

In late November, after yet another interview where the family had not received any financial assistance, I called Robin Hood urging that we act immediately. The Relief Committee was also hearing that, despite best efforts, many victims' families were not being reached. After lengthy debate, on December 7, the Committee decided it would be unconscionable to allow those suffering to go into the holidays with no financial assistance. They planned to give each victim's family a no-strings, no-application gift of \$5,000 before the holidays. There was just one problem, an accurate list of victims' families did not exist.

Robin Hood staff worked around the clock to compile a list and get the checks out. They called every company that had been located in the World Trade Center to request information. Most companies said that we were the first to call. Some had concerns about releasing names, so Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, Robin Hood's pro bono legal firm, drafted 57 separate confidentiality agreements. Robin Hood eventually convinced the Pentagon to cooperate and subsequently, the airlines agreed to release their passenger lists. And, most profoundly, Robin Hood staff contacted hundreds of victims' families directly.

By December 23rd, just 16 days later, checks were sent overnight to 2,700 families around the world.

Following the check distribution, Robin Hood was showered with moving thank you notes from victims' families. These powerful letters provide another glimpse into the staggering loss of humanity behind the mind-numbing statistics.

PHOTO: IDA ASTUTE

“This is a gift from thousands of people who are concerned about your family. We know mere money can not possibly alleviate your loss, but we hope the knowledge that others care helps in this awful time.”

FROM ROBIN HOOD'S LETTER TO VICTIMS' FAMILIES THAT ACCOMPANIED OUR CHECKS ...

“WE WERE NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITHOUT OUR DAUGHTER. SHE WAS ONLY 23 ... OUR HOUSE HAS BECOME MUCH TOO QUIET.”

“I received your package on Christmas Eve, it felt as if Mom and Dad were there. So thank you for that.”

“He was born on the Fourth of July and loved America.”

“My wife was killed at the Pentagon ... she was my lover, my partner, a great mother, and my best friend.”

“Our son Patrick, was born eight days after his father was killed ...”

“IT’S BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY HARD FOR US AND YOUR FOUNDATION HAS GIVEN ME ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT.”

“Doug was a fighter. He had a passion for all he took on ... a man who took fatherhood to a new level.”

“I would especially like to thank you for the manner in which you provided these funds. It was a wonderful blessing to receive a gift free of paperwork or proof of need. You have reached out to us in a spirit of genuine love and compassion, and we are grateful.”

“He had incredible strength of character and overcame a difficult childhood that included abandonment and foster homes ... he was my better half.”

“I MET HIM IN THE SCHOOLYARD WHEN I WAS 13. HE TOLD ME THAT NIGHT HE WAS GOING TO MARRY ME.”

“... HAVING FRIENDS AND BROTHERS LIKE YOU, THE PAIN HAS BEEN LESS. I HOPE TO SEE YOU SOME DAY TO EMBRACE YOU. AS MY CHILDREN GROW UP, I WILL TELL THEM WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR US.”

“Your check arrived on his birthday. For me that was a sign that it was OK to take the money. I feel, in a way, it came from him.”

“It will defray the expenses of the week-long trip to inventory the possessions of my daughter and her family. No amount of money will undo the loss of a daughter, granddaughters, and son-in-law, but the outpouring of love and assistance ... gives us comfort and helps us fight back the bitterness and despair.”

“MY SON WAS A CO-PILOT ... YOU WERE THE ONLY ORGANIZATION TO HELP ME ...”

Stan Druckenmiller



I was the Chair of Robin Hood's board on September 11, 2001. In the days that followed, I reluctantly agreed that Robin Hood should create a relief fund. But I had concerns. Even before the attacks, poverty was at epic proportions in New York City. What would happen to the people our grantee organizations served if we were diverted from our mission of fighting poverty?

On September 25, 2001 we brought all of our grantees together for a meeting. What I heard that day would not only change my mind about the wisdom of creating the Robin Hood Relief Fund, but it also convinced me we needed to re-double our core poverty-fighting efforts.

Representatives from our organizations described the flood of people knocking on their doors, terrified, alone, in grief or suddenly unemployed. These organizations were reaching into their own meager budgets and in many cases the staffs' own pockets to give victims and their families a few dollars. I found out that because Robin Hood partnered with the best grassroots community organizations in New York City, we were already in the relief business.

These community leaders told us what to expect — emergency cash assistance to pay rent and bills would be the immediate need, followed by job training. They knew mental health would be an issue and that it would be masked in other problems. They also warned us that some of their organizations would lose financial support to the larger relief efforts. Looking back, they were 100 percent accurate.

It was important that day, as it is every day, to be reminded that as big as New York City is, it is a community. We can label our support for organizations whatever we want, but in the end what we are really talking about is helping other people.

SISTER JUDITH GARSON



“Little Sisters of the Assumption provides a whole range of services in our East Harlem community. In the weeks after the attack, when people became desperate, it didn't matter that we weren't a relief organization, people came to our door because they didn't know where else to turn. Our neighborhood is made up of poor working people. We have the lowest median household income in Manhattan — \$14,600 a year. Many of our residents worked in and around the World Trade Center for minimum wage, or in the case of some immigrants, a lot less. Three days out of work would leave them with no savings and no money for food and rent. Thanks to Robin Hood, we were able to respond quickly and set up a structure for emergency assistance. With a minimum of bureaucracy, we were able to help people that were living on the edge and couldn't wait a week for assistance. People like a woman who on September 11th lost two of her three jobs. The restaurant where she worked closed. She also lost her job cleaning a man's apartment because he lost his job. We paid her landlord a month's rent so she could have a roof over her head while she looked for work.

Shortly after September 11th, Robin Hood asked us to come to a meeting of all the social service organizations with which they worked. They wanted to bring us together to discuss the immediate impact of September 11th and how we could plan ahead. I'll never forget that morning at The Plaza. There were hundreds of us, some still in stages of shock and some ready to go into action. I was amazed at Robin Hood's ability to mobilize all those people. And I think just being together like that made many of us feel like we could figure out a way to cope.”

MARINO CALDERON



“I’m a bus driver, and my wife she was working in the World Trade Center the day she passed away. I was waiting that day until 1am. I tried to visit every hospital, police department. I made every call I could but I never heard any good news.

My wife ... she was all for me and my two kids. Now I don’t have any help. I have lots of friends but I don’t trust anyone to take care of my kids. They need me too much because they have lost their mother. Now I have to do as father and mother.

I didn’t know anything about Robin Hood. I went to the mailbox. On the envelope I saw the name and thought of the movie. I thought it must be a joke. I opened it and saw the check. It was a great feeling. How could it be? These people don’t know me. What I thought was ... these people really love me.”

TEPEYAC FAMILY

On September 11, Enrique left for his job at Windows on the World earlier than usual. He had made plans for later that afternoon to enjoy the glorious late summer weather and go to the park with his daughters. He never came home.

With the loss of Enrique, the family’s sole breadwinner, money was tight. The family turned to Asociaciòn Tepeyac, an organization working with New York’s Mexican community. Enrique’s wife said, “It was bad for us, but I know one woman who stayed alone in her room for three weeks after her husband didn’t return. She was illegal and afraid to tell anyone what happened. I sent her to Tepeyac.”

There was a small army of low-wage workers in the Trade Center. Immigrants—most supporting families back home—hustled breakfast orders up and down the elevators, delivered flowers and washed dishes in concourse restaurants. The challenge became identifying them. How do you document the undocumented? Tepeyac became a 24-hour organization drawing on volunteers from all over the city. It began by posting photos on its website of those who were missing. It created ways to prove people existed or worked in downtown businesses. Tepeyac worked with survivors to act as witnesses for their co-workers who were lost, and collected evidence of money sent back home to demonstrate family ties. They also stayed with the families through the process of filing papers, collecting benefits and rebuilding lives.



Harvey Weinstein



A few days after September 11th, I was on a plane with Paul McCartney discussing the impact of the attacks. Paul talked about his father, a former firefighter in Liverpool and the fact that he wanted to do something to honor the heroes who had lost their lives on September 11th. I had already been speaking with Jim Dolan and John Sykes about arranging a fundraiser, but once Paul expressed interest, the pieces quickly came together; Jim booked the Garden; John arranged for VH-1 to broadcast the show; AOL joined us to coordinate on-line donations and a call center; and the Robin Hood staff was ready to sell tickets and fundraise.

I don't think anyone ever dreamed that we could raise more than \$35 million from one night of music, because nothing of that size had ever been tried — especially on such short notice. We wanted to raise as much money as possible, but we also wanted to bring New Yorkers together and raise their spirits. Despite the ongoing terror threats, anthrax scares and police with machine guns all over the streets, everyone showed up and made it a memorable night. It was powerful, and we hope there is never a need for another concert like it.

John Sykes



The Concert for New York City was a testament to the incredible healing power of music. The entire floor of Madison Square Garden was filled with uniformed police, firemen and EMTs who were dancing, laughing and crying. The electricity in that arena was like nothing I'd ever experienced.

The first call came in from Jon Bon Jovi. "We're in. We just want to help." Over the next 18 days offers streamed in from the biggest artists in the world. Never before was it so easy to get talent. They all donated their time and expenses without a question.

It was an honor to work on the concert along side fellow Robin Hood board members Harvey Weinstein, Bob Pittman and Doug Morris. We were also fortunate to have Jim Dolan donate the most famous concert venue in the world, picking up every single production expense.

Less than three weeks after we began planning, the curtain went up on a six hour marathon concert, broadcast live, featuring 20 musical artists, 30 celebrity presenters, seven films, a worldwide call center, ebay auction, and merchandise sales. Within weeks, the entire concert was distributed around the world on CD, DVD and video on Columbia Records with all the proceeds going to Robin Hood's Relief Fund.

One thing I will never forget about the Concert for New York City ... even though the greatest artists in the world were performing on the stage, the real heroes that evening were in the audience.



ALL CONCERT PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE: IMAGE DIRECT



TOP 3 PHOTOS: WIRE IMAGE / ALL OTHER PHOTOS: IMAGE DIRECT

THE CONCERT FOR NEW YORK CITY

On October 20, 2001, 17,000 people packed Madison Square Garden for the most successful fundraising concert in history, which netted \$35.97 million for the Robin Hood Relief Fund. The *Concert for New York City*, produced and presented by VH1, Cablevision, Miramax, AOL and Robin Hood, brought together a historic line-up of superstar performers, celebrity presenters and short films celebrating New York. Not only was the concert a phenomenal fundraising event, it was a thank you to the heroic uniformed personnel. Through the generous donations of corporate sponsors, 7,000 of the best seats were donated to firefighters, police officers and rescue workers.

“The concert was a break from the horror ... a little piece of heaven on earth after being in hell at ground zero for six weeks. As a cop, you are always called on to do things for other people, and that night there were all these people doing something for us.”

POLICE OFFICER DAVE ISAKSEN,
EMERGENCY SERVICE SQUAD 7

THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF THE ROBIN HOOD NEWSLETTER IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE RELIEF FUND'S EFFORTS OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. YOU CAN FIND DETAILED WRITE-UPS ON THE 112 SEPTEMBER 11TH RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY ROBIN HOOD IN THE PROGRAMS SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE, WWW.ROBINHOOD.ORG.

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Robin Hood fights poverty in New York City by finding and funding the best community-based organizations. We partner with them to maximize effectiveness and we evaluate results. Because Robin Hood's board of directors underwrites all administrative and fundraising costs, every cent donated goes directly to organizations helping people build better lives for themselves and their families.

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