Social Work/FDNY Program Assisting Families of September 11 Firefighter Victims

**By James Devitt**

The FDNY/Columbia University Family Assessment and Guidance Program, part of the University’s School of Social Work, was developed this past year as a collaborative program with the New York City Fire Department to provide assistance to children of firefighters who perished during the September 11th terrorist attacks. It was selected by the Counseling Service Unit of the FDNY to provide assessment, guidance and long-term follow-up.

To date, 29 families and their 75 children are participating. "You can fill out about them and their teachers and doctors, within their family, psychologically and emotionally—a little more than a year after their parent died. However, Christ points out that a parental death from cancer provides opportunities for preparation that were not available to families who lost a loved one on September 11th, creating an expectation for a different course of recovery. Although the mourning process is arduous and painful, it quickly became apparent to Christ that "heroes marry heroes." The extraordinary strength and courage of these women is an inspiration," she said. "One feels privileged to have the opportunity to be involved in their journey."

Interested families can call the FDNY/Columbia University Family Assessment and Guidance Program at (212) 854-0698 for further information.

Columbia Remembers September 11

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Memorial Events at Columbia University, Barnard College and Teachers College

**Teachers College Memorial Service** (8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)
Mithank Chapel, Teachers College

**University Remembrance** (8:40 a.m.-9:15 a.m.)
Low Plaza, Morningside Campus
• Ringing of Chapel bells
• Opening words by University Chaplain Jewedd Davis
• Citywide moment of silence at 8:46 A.M.
• Reading of names of family and friends by President Lee Bollinger
• Reading from *The Guys* by playwright Anne Nelson, School of Journalism

**State-wide Moment of Silence** (9:59 A.M.)

**Health Sciences Midday Memorial Service** (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
Medical Service Center Garden
Rain Location: Physicians & Surgeons Alumni Auditorium, Health Sciences Campus

**Interfaith Commemoration Service** (12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.)
St. Paul’s Chapel, Morningside Campus

**Art Miles Mural Project** (Presentation 1:30 p.m., Painting Begins 2:00 p.m.)
Low Library Steps (including presentation), Schermerhorn Plaza, Lehman Lawn (Barnard)

Columbia students and faculty are invited to collaborate with children from P.S. 125 on a mural on painting their thoughts and emotions. The completed work will be donated to a major New York museum. The project has been commissioned by the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization (UNESCO).

**Tree Planting** (4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.)
Lehman Lawn, Barnard College

**Candlelight Vigil** (9:00 p.m.)
Low Plaza
Rain Location: Roone Arledge Auditorium, Morningside Campus

For updated information and listings of school-sponsored and other events, visit: www.columbia.edu/columbiaremembers

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We also found that 83 percent of the children had returned to their previous levels of functioning—in their schoolwork, within their family, psychologically and emotionally—a little more than a year after their parent died. However, Christ points out that a parental death from cancer provides opportunities for preparation that were not available to families who lost a loved one on September 11th, creating an expectation for a different course of recovery. Although the mourning process is arduous and painful, it quickly became apparent to Christ that "heroes marry heroes." The extraordinary strength and courage of these women is an inspiration," she said. "One feels privileged to have the opportunity to be involved in their journey."

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