

Thank You



Ben Tickner was one of thousands of people who felt compelled to travel to New York City in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks to help in the rescue and recovery effort. He attached an American flag to his truck, picked up a few friends and drove from his home in Rhode Island to New York City. When he arrived in downtown Manhattan, he was directed where to park by a police officer. He left his keys in the truck. Several days later, he returned to find the truck gone. He reported the missing vehicle to the police and he was given a free ticket on Amtrak to return to his home in Rhode Island. When he was dropped off at his house, his truck was waiting for him in the driveway. On it was a sticky note. It read, "Thank you."

"In making the decision to go down there, it really wasn't a matter of whether I would go or what I would do, but rather, how do we get down there fast enough?"

With his background in EMS and Law Enforcement, Ben said that he felt it was "natural" that he felt "compelled" to respond on 9/11.

"I consider myself lucky to have been able to serve and help those first few days and I appreciate all that VOICES has done over the years to bring everyone together and create a true legacy for the heroes we lost that day and their families."

~ Ben Tickner

Ben was one of thousands of first responders and volunteers who participated in the recovery effort. Emergency medical personnel, police officers and firefighters provided assistance both in Manhattan and in local communities where backup was needed because some of their personnel were in Manhattan. The sacrifices made by these brave men and women, many of whom worked many hours in a toxic environment, cannot be overstated. These heroes on 9/11 have inspired our nation. On September 14, 2011, VOICES Board member, Bonnie McEaney, participated in a service at the Connecticut 9/11 Memorial in Westport to recognize and thank Connecticut's 9/11 First Responders.

"I am here on behalf of all 9/11 families to say thank you. But thank you is not enough. There are no words that adequately express our gratitude for what you have done. The level of altruism that you have demonstrated is unsurpassed."

~ Bonnie McEaney, Wife of Eamon McEaney



Westport Ceremony for First Responders