



*Healing Families & Communities After Tragedy*

## 2015 Year in Review



**Voices of September 11th**

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## Healing Families and Communities After Tragedy

Voices of September 11th (VOICES) helps communities heal after traumatic events. We fill a gap by addressing the long term needs of those impacted, using our 14 years of expertise to create a new paradigm in victims' services. Using social work practices and providing continuity of care, VOICES offers case management, support services and programming that promotes resiliency in the lives of victims' families, responders and survivors; shares best practices to assist communities in preparing for and responding to traumatic events; conducts research and develops curriculum and training; and advocates for public policy reforms that promote national preparedness.



Most recently, the organization launched VOICES Center of Excellence for Community Resilience, to assist communities in preparing for and responding to acts of terrorism, mass violence and natural disasters. The Center promotes best practices in addressing the long-term needs of victims' families, survivors and responders through educational forums, training programs, and scholarly research.

### Leadership and Advisors

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Thanks to the generous support of our donors and partners, VOICES provides hope and healing to those impacted by traumatic events.

## Helping Others Heal



Our staff continues to provide critical support services to over 5,100 9/11 families responders and survivors. We offered a wide range of programs, including distributing information, referrals, assessments, teleconference groups and conferences. Our dedication to the 9/11 community remains steadfast, and we are equally committed to using our expertise to help families and communities impacted by other tragedies.

## Symposiums and Conferences



In 2015, we held three conferences: our New Jersey Symposium, New York Symposium and 14th Annual Information Forum. More than 450 family members, responders, survivors, mental health professionals and government agencies attended, including representatives from the Air India Flight 182 bombing, the Boston Marathon bombing and the Newtown School shootings. These events featured nationally and internationally recognized subject matter experts, researchers, clinicians and victims' advocates from a variety of fields.



## 9/11 Living Memorial Project



On the 14th Anniversary, VOICES launched its next-generation 9/11 Living Memorial website. The extensive collection of nearly 80,000 photographs will continue to grow. In 2016, we will be working with family members to enhance and expand the Living Memorial, so that future generations will always remember in a meaningful way the 2,977 precious lives lost.

## VOICES Internship Program



VOICES High School and College Internship Program provides students with valuable professional experience and the opportunity to learn first-hand about the events of September 11th. As part of the program, our interns work alongside our staff and learn about 9/11 in a different way, creating the next generation of leaders. They also had the opportunity to attend the Jerusalem Peacebuilders Camp in Vermont along with student leaders from Israel and Palestine.

Since the Internship Program's inception, over 150 students from five high schools and more than 30 colleges have participated. Many of our interns have found this to be a life-changing experience and have been inspired to pursue careers in the nonprofit sector, social work, with federal agencies and in government offices.

Thanks to our partners. . .  
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and working with our collaborative partners, VOICES has provided information, events, and direct services to over 1,400 responders and survivors, including assisting them in enrolling in the World Trade Center Health Program.

### VOICES Research Project



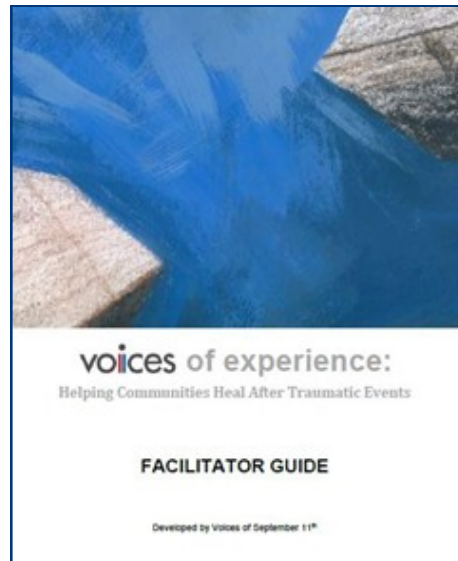
National September 11 Memorial

Air India Flight 182 Memorial

With partial funding from Public Safety Canada's Kanishka Project, in June 2015 VOICES launched our research project, *"Investigating the Long-Term Impact of Bereavement Due to Terrorism: Factors That Contribute to Trauma, Grief, Growth and Resilience."* We are honored to be working in collaboration with the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime and the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress at the Uniformed Services University on this project, with Dr. Stephen Cozza serving as the Principal Investigator.

The study is evaluating the immediate and ongoing needs of family members who lost loved ones on 9/11, or in the bombing of Air India Flight 182 in June 1985. By understanding the collective experiences of victims' families, we will better serve the 9/11 community and assist families impacted by other traumatic events. Findings will be released in late 2016.

## VOICES of Experience: Curriculum and Training



With the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, VOICES is creating a curriculum and training to assist communities in preparing for and responding to acts of terrorism, mass violence and natural disasters. The training is based on the findings detailed in VOICES *Preparing for After* Resource Kit and will be piloted in Summer 2016.

VOICES Resource Kit has been downloaded by community stakeholders in the United States, South Africa, Belgium and China - and has been translated into Chinese.

### Building Resilience Together

Each week, we receive many emails, notes and phone calls from many of the families, responders and survivors we are honored to assist on their healing journeys:

*"Thank you for all the splendid work that you do in connecting, educating and teaching us coping skills. Your conferences are inclusive of all the areas that individuals face during this difficult time in our lives."*

*"VOICES work connects us with people who have helped heal the hole in our hearts."*

*"If it wasn't for VOICES I would not have known about the World Trade Center Health Program. Thank you!"*





VOICES fundraising efforts are integral to our success, and we thank all who supported our two major events this year!

### Inaugural Golf Outing



VOICES Inaugural Golf Outing was held on Tuesday, September 9 at the Country Club of Fairfield. Notable attendees included Governor Thomas Kean, Former ESPN President George Bodenheimer and Emmy Award winning ESPN journalist Jeremy Schaap, who shared uplifting stories of resilience at the Awards Dinner. We were also honored to have a group of Wounded Warriors join us for the day.

### 8th Annual Always Remember Gala



VOICES 8th Annual Always Remember Gala was held on Monday, October 5 at Guastavino's in New York City. We were honored to have FBI Director James Comey deliver the keynote address and to present VOICES Building Bridges Award to former FBI Director Robert Mueller. Veteran CBS 60 Minutes Correspondent Lesley Stahl served as emcee, and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductee Dave Mason concluded the evening with a fantastic musical performance.

## The Power of Many: VOICES Partnerships

VOICES has partnered with like-minded subject matter experts, academics, educational institutions, organizations and government agencies working in the fields of mental health and trauma-informed treatment, promoting resilience and recovery, victim's services, and community response. The following are a sample of our 2015 collaborative partners.

