



# World Trade Center United Family Group

Vol. 3,  
Issue 1.

February  
2007

## Oklahoma City Exchange: April 2007 Call for Participants

**What:** Call for Participants  
Sixth Annual September  
11th/Oklahoma City  
Family Exchange

**Where:** Oklahoma City, OK

**When:** April 18 through April 20, 2007

WTC United is proud to call on members of our September 11th community to participate in our 6th Annual September 11th/Oklahoma City Family Exchange, which will take place in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, April 18 through Friday April 20, 2007.

A series of peer support activities will be held during the course of the exchange includ-

ing a tour of the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Memorial Museum.

WTC United will cover all logistical costs excluding incidentals (room service, some meals, etc.).

As in past years, we will employ a lottery selection system to select the delegation that will journey to Oklahoma City to represent our September 11th community.

If you are interested in participating, please call us at (732) 292-2910 or send us an email at [amg@wtcufg.org](mailto:amg@wtcufg.org) by Friday, March 9, 2007. Please include your full name, address and a daytime phone number.

### INSIDE:

Holiday Brunch 2  
Photo Collage

Sharing the 3  
Story of our  
Loved Ones

Savethe911 3  
memorial.com  
Information

Memorial and 4  
Remains  
Updates

### Comments? Suggestions?

Contact us via phone at

**732-292-2910**

or email us at

**[info@wtcufg.org](mailto:info@wtcufg.org)**

**Volunteer opportunities are available and appreciated!**

## 5th Annual Holiday Gathering Recap

The World Trade Center United Family Group held its 5th Annual Holiday Gathering on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006 at the Chart House in Weehawken, New Jersey.

The three-hour holiday

brunch was a chance for members of WTC United to spend time together, remembering their loved ones and celebrating the holidays.

With over 100 participants this year, the event featured

an interfaith prayer led by Rev. Gail Burwa, advice on making the most of the holidays from Michele Seligman, LCSW, BCD, and a special visit from Sponge Bob.

Guests were invited to make holiday crafts and sign posters for wounded troops at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, Florida. Participants also sent holiday care package items to these brave men and women.

Adele Milanowczyk views the brunch as a time to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones affected by 9/11.

"It is the only holiday celebration I will go to," she said. "I can be myself, happy or sad. I can cry or

laugh without anyone looking at me strangely."

John Quinn feels the brunch is extremely beneficial.

"There was a lot of love in the room, as well as sadness for those missing loved ones who were not there on this day. But they were there in spirit, of course. We remembered them with a beautiful candlelight prayer," said Quinn. "The holidays can be an extraordinarily difficult time for the 9/11 families, but it always turns out to be three lovely hours spent with some very special people."

Anthony and Gloria Ingrassia say the brunch is a great opportunity to reconnect with their 9/11 friends and to see the progress everyone is making. "Having the brunch during the



WTC United Chairwoman Patricia Reilly, SpongeBob, Exec. Director Anthony Gardner at the 5th Annual Holiday Brunch at the Chart House.

# HOLIDAY BRUNCH 2006 PHOTO COLLAGE



# Sharing the Story of Our Loved Ones: Welles Remy Crowther

By Alison Crowther

Welles Remy Crowther, 24, was an equities trader at Sandler O'Neill & Partners, where he had worked since graduating from Boston College in 1999. Welles was also a fully trained volunteer firefighter in Upper Nyack since he was 16.

On September 11th, Welles was in his office at 9 a.m. so his family assumed he was lost above with fellow co-workers. However, on March 19, 2002, Welles was recovered with FDNY Incident Commander Battalion Chief Donald Burns, a lieutenant, two firefighters and another civilian who had been at the ground floor command center of 2WTC. Welles and the firefighters were reportedly headed back up to rescue trapped victims when the tower collapsed.

In May of 2002, a piece in the *New York Times* reported survivors mentioning a mysterious man wearing a red bandanna, who mounted single-handed rescue efforts, put out fires and led dazed and confused victims to the only open stairwell. The mention of a red bandanna caught my attention. Welles always carried a red bandanna since he was seven. I was able to contact the survivors who identified Welles from recent photos as the man who saved their lives.

It was always apparent that Welles was a special soul. He was very loving and protective of his baby sisters and of his mother. He adored his father, his best friend. He was gentle and kind to

others, but was also a wild adventurer. He had a great imagination, often playing cowboy or warrior roles. His favorite show as a child was "The Dukes of Hazard". He used to build jumps and race his Big Wheels down the driveway and over the jump with his younger sister Honor standing on the back! From the age of 7, Welles was the Rockland County Diving Champion. As a teenager, he was able to convince his terrified mother to bungee jump and go on roller coasters with him.

Welles had friends from many different backgrounds. After he was lost, many young people came to us to say that Welles was always warm and friendly to everyone, not just the "in" crowd. Coaches from competing teams told us that Welles always stepped up to shake their hands after a competition, regardless of the outcome. He cared deeply for others and would share personally in a sorrow or disappointment as well as joy and success.

Welles went on to Boston College and played varsity lacrosse. These were perhaps the happiest years of his life. At graduation, Welles told us that he wished college was seven years. There was just too much fun to be had, and too much to learn, in only four years.

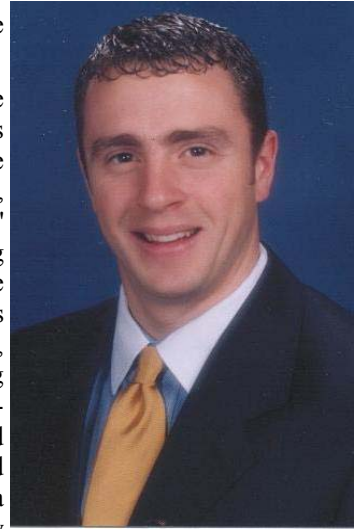
Welles went to work for Sandler O'Neill right after graduation in 1999. He loved his work, and he relished being up high in the towers. In the summer of 2001, however, he considered

joining the FDNY.

When the Towers were struck, Welles' calling came. He used his courage, his training as a firefighter, and his red bandanna as his only protection to save lives. Not thinking of his own safety, he chose to continue

rescue operations with the FDNY. Welles would not leave while there were still lives to be saved. This was Welles, and when the planes struck, he was no longer Welles Crowther, equities trader; he was Welles Crowther, firefighter.

On Dec. 15, 2006, the FDNY officially recognized Welles' role and sacrifice on 9/11 and made him a brother. Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scopetta and Chief of Dept. Salvatore Casano appointed Welles, posthumously, an honorary member of the FDNY, the first time in the history of the FDNY that such an appointment.



## A Message from Edie Lutnik, Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund

*Recently, I joined with leaders from the other major 9/11 family groups to launch a national initiative by creating a television commercial to increase awareness and raise additional support for our names proposal, which asks only that the WTC Memorial answer the questions we are always asked about our loved ones: What was his name? How old was she? Where did he work? Where was she on 9/11?*

*We also created a website called [www.savethe911memorial.com](http://www.savethe911memorial.com). I urge you to go look at the site. On it you will see the mock-ups of what our plan would look like, and what the Mayor's random (or no discernable order) plan leaves out. We believe that once you see the mock-ups it will be much easier to understand how both plans would work and what will be lost to not only the families, but to future generations if we do not remain vigilant in our efforts to sway Mayor Bloomberg.*

*Our website [www.Savethe911memorial.com](http://www.Savethe911memorial.com) asks you to sign our petition supporting the family names proposal. If you agree with our position, please go to the site and sign the petition. Forward the information to everyone you know to do the same. Support from fellow Americans is very important. If you do not have ac-*

*cess to a computer and need the petition in hardcopy, please call Marianna at 212-829-4770 and we will send one to you.*

*I know you have signed letters of support for this issue before. In fact, 1700 families did so. But, that support is being ignored. So, we need to do it again. Bigger, and more completely. The Mayor and the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation need to know that the families do not agree with the Mayor's proposal and the public does not support it. We need to let Governor Spitzer know that we need his help. The best way to do that is with a massive number of signatures of support on our petition, and by contacting your elected officials.*

*I am pleased to report that our campaign has been receiving nationwide media attention including an article on MSNBC.com, the New York Times, the New York Post and the Daily News.*

*Please make our voices roar like thunder by raising them in unison. Together we can make sure that the story of September 11th isn't missing from the memorial.*

September 11th Community ©  
**WTC United**  
**2640 Highway 70, Bldg. 1A**  
**Manasquan, NJ 08736**

Nonprofit Standard Mail  
US Postage Paid  
Brick, NJ  
Permit No. 290



**We will HONOR**  
**the spirit of**  
**our loved ones**  
**by UNITING in**  
**the American**  
**spirit.**

### **Update on Human Remains Found at Ground Zero, Dennis McKeon and the Put It Above Ground Campaign**

As of Jan. 26, 2007, 1,052 additional remains have been found:  
**766 - Deutsche Bank , 209 - Manholes, 77 - haul road**  
**1052 Total as of 1/26/07**

You can expect the numbers to increase as the search extends further south along the haul road. It is a disgrace that they knew that there was a very good possibility that these remains would be found under the haul road but delayed the excavation for over two months. We still do not understand what is happening to WTC debris that has been found. It is inconceivable to think that human remains are being found with no material from the towers. Early on we were getting reports of parts of computers and desks etc being found even a part of what appeared to be an ID card.

Since we have raised the issue of the haul road possibly being constructed from material from the pit these reports have stopped. Someone needs to look into this as something is wrong. No report on the site of the Greek Orthodox Church but our sources insist that much will be found when that is excavated. Everyone we have spoken to has told us that the church was bull dozed and paved over and the basement was never even searched. While there may not be human remains the contents of the basement should still be underground at that site.

Still no response to Community Board 1's passage of a resolution to allow JPAC into the site to search for remains. There is also still not one DNA match from the nearly 1,000 DNA samples that have been extracted and sent back for comparison.

*(Holiday Brunch Recap cont'd.)*

holidays gives us the chance to talk about and remember our loved ones without feeling awkward that we might be ruining someone's holiday. We are all in the same circumstances and we can appreciate each others tales."

Participants noted in evaluation surveys that the gathering is a very valuable peer-support program. Guests noted the event helps to make them feel as if they are not alone in their experiences, especially during the holidays. Participants agree that the holiday brunch fills a valuable need in the September 11th community.