



The 9/11 Neediest Medical Campaign Comes to an End in 2009

A support program that has provided medical coverage for WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program responders with serious illnesses not related to their World Trade Center work is coming to an end.

The 9/11 Neediest Medical Campaign has made it possible for patients without any health insurance to receive awards toward treatment or medication for life-threatening illnesses not covered by their participation in the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program. The campaign was created specifically to address a significant gap in available medical resources for a great number of 9/11 responders. The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund and other generous donors made the campaign possible with a donation of over \$2 million.

"We feel privileged to have been able to help the responders in our program access an incredible life-saving benefit," said Dr. Jacqueline Moline, Director of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program, Clinical Center at Mount Sinai. "We are supremely grateful to the New York Times and other funders for this chance to have helped so many of our patients. We only wish the program did not have to end, as the need for care remains."

In operation since March 2007, the campaign has benefited over 250 responders throughout the New York and New Jersey area, with awards available to participants enrolled in each of the partner Clinical Centers that make up the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program.

The campaign has provided medical services for a range of illnesses, such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, thyroid disorders, spine disease, and other conditions, and provided funds for necessary surgical procedures. Patients have also been connected with benefits coordination in order to receive vital community services, so that a plan for long-term recovery can be put into

place. The assistance is not a cash award, but part of an integrated effort to improve the patient's health.

Although the campaign is no longer accepting new applications, patients who have already been accepted into the program are still eligible to receive care through 2009. For any follow-up questions or information, they should call the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program at 212-241-6307 and leave a message that includes a telephone number. The call will be returned within 48 hours. UMDNJ patients can also call Carol Perret at 732 445 0123 x 600.

Despite the ending of the 9/11 Neediest Medical Campaign, patients with medical needs not related to their WTC work as responders are still encouraged to speak with the social work staff of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program about services that might be available to them.

Meet a Responder

DENNIS HEALY, a retired New York City police officer has been coming to the NJ center since January, 2007. Now as a retired police officer, Dennis is part owner of a consulting business and also teaches. Before retirement, Dennis was a member of the NYPD Emergency Service Unit. As a responder at the WTC Rescue and Recovery effort, he was involved with search, recovery, and dignitary and force protection.

Illness and treatment

Dennis was at the WTC site from September 12 through the end of the rescue and recovery effort period. He first noticed a persistent cough in October, 2001 and thereafter, developed shortness of breath with exertion and

(Continued on page 2)

Meet a Responder

(Continued from page 1)

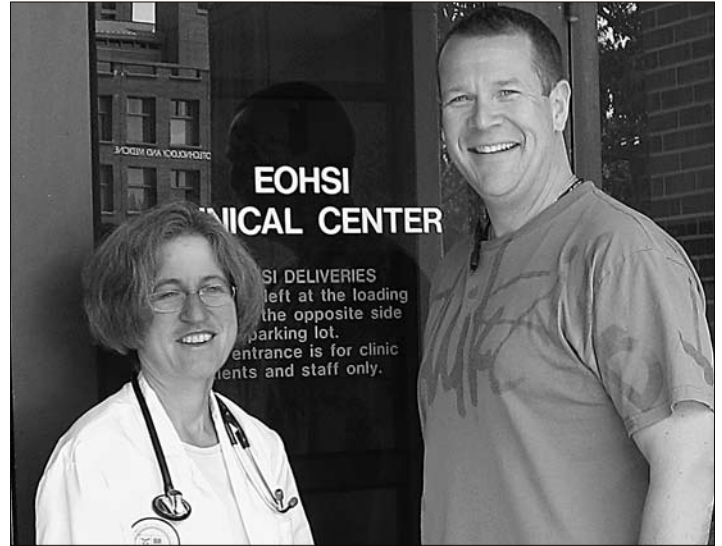
gastro-esophageal (acid) reflux. Dennis never smoked. He also has pulmonary nodules which were identified through radiologic tests.

Through monitoring at EOHSI, and treatment with medication, Dennis's symptoms have not progressed. His concern is that his health may deteriorate in the future. Now, he experiences shortness of breath with exercise, exertional or recreational activity, and even with climbing stairs. He also has a chronic, persistent cough which has improved, but is still present.

Advice for fellow responders

He wants to let others know that participation in the program, especially monitoring, is important and has improved his quality of life. He urges all responders to make appointments for follow up examinations, even if they are feeling well.

Some responders are unaware that the program exists. If you know someone who has worked at the WTC recovery effort, please spread the word that this program is available



Retired NYPD officer Dennis Healy (R.) and Dr. Iris Udasin, Director of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in Piscataway, NJ.

and exists at Centers of Excellence throughout New York City, Long Island, and in New Jersey.

WTC Workers' Compensation Registration Deadline Extended

New deadline is September 11, 2010

IN AUGUST, Governor David Paterson signed a bill into law that allows workers and volunteers more time to ensure their right to file a 9/11-related Workers' Compensation claim in the future.

As a worker or volunteer exposed to hazards on or after September 11, 2001, you can file for Workers' Compensation if you become sick in the future. *But to qualify, you must register by filling out a WTC-12 form. Registration forms must be received by the Workers' Compensation Board before September 11, 2010.*

Register now if you did rescue, recovery or cleanup work, either as a volunteer or for pay, between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 12, 2002, in any of the following locations:

☞ anywhere in Manhattan south of Canal or Pike Streets, or

☞ on the barge operation between Lower Manhattan and Staten Island, or

☞ at the Staten Island landfill, or

☞ the New York City morgue.

Register now, even if you have not gotten sick, or if you have already filed a Workers' Compensation claim. This will allow you to apply for Workers' Compensation for any WTC-related illnesses that may come up later in your life. *If you fail to register before the deadline, you will lose the right to file future Workers' Compensation claims for 9/11-related illness.*

For more information on how to register your WTC-12 form, call your WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program clinic, or 888-702-0630. You can also visit our website to download the form at www.wtcexams.org.