



**\$10 BILLION AND  
FREE HEALTH CARE  
AVAILABLE FOR 9/11  
RESPONDERS AND  
SURVIVORS**



# WTC HEALTH PROGRAM & 9/11 VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND

## What First Responders Need to Know



If you responded to the WTC site or the landfill and were exposed to the toxins, you are entitled to free health care and compensation for your 9/11 related illnesses.

## VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND (VCF)

VCF

- \$10+ billion has been made available to fully compensate claimants who have pending claims, as well as future claimants diagnosed with certified WTC illnesses. Over \$5 billion has been awarded to 25,000+ people.
- The VCF has been fully funded and permanently extended to 2092.
- VCF claimants with pending claims, and those who have already received awards, have the right to "amend" their claims if their duty status changes as a result of their 9/11 illnesses and/or if they are diagnosed with new WTC-certified illnesses.
- All claims MUST be registered within 2 years of the date of certification by the World Trade Center Health Program.
- VCF awards range from \$90,000-\$340,000 for certified cancers, and more for economic loss if the claimant has been found disabled by a WTC illness.
- VCF awards range from \$10,000-\$90,000 for non-cancer certified illnesses.
- All VCF awards are tax free.



## HEALTH CARE



- Medical care for 9/11 first responders has been permanently extended.
- Active and retired responders have the right to free health care for WTC-certified illnesses from the the WTC Health Program (which has clinics throughout the country).
- Make sure you take advantage of this free exam and go to your annual WTC physical.
- A skin cancer screening is not performed at the WTC Health Program physical; therefore, you should go for a full body skin exam at least once per year. Skin cancers are the most common WTC-related cancers.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT US:**

TEL # 212-385-8000 EMAIL: MICHAEL@911VICTIMFUND.COM WWW.911VICTIMFUND.COM

# **MOST COMMON CANCERS AND NON-CANCER ILLNESSES LINKED TO THE WTC TOXINS**

*There is a presumption that these illnesses were caused by WTC toxic exposure:*

## **CANCERS**

- **Skin Cancer (Basal Cell, Squamous Cell, and Melanoma)**
- **Prostate Cancer**
- **Thyroid Cancer**
- **Breast Cancer**
- **Blood Cancers: Lymphoma & Leukemia**
- **Lung Cancer**
- **Kidney Cancer**
- **Colon Cancer**
- **Bladder Cancer**
- **Rare Cancers**

## **NON-CANCERS**

- **Interstitial Lung Diseases, including Pulmonary Fibrosis and Sarcoidosis**
- **Chronic Rhinosinusitis**
- **Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)**
- **Asthma**
- **Sleep Apnea**
- **Chronic Respiratory Disorder - Fumes / Vapors**
- **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)**

*Altogether, 68 cancers have been linked to the WTC toxins. If you have been diagnosed with a cancer that is not on the list, you may still be eligible. Our firm has been representing the 9/11 community since 2001. We will help you get enrolled in the Health Program. Once certified, it almost always leads to compensation. **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!***

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT US:**

**TEL # 212-385-8000 EMAIL: MICHAEL@911VICTIMFUND.COM WWW.911VICTIMFUND.COM**

# WERE YOU THERE?

on 9/11 or during the 8 months that followed



## The 9/11 Zadroga Health & Compensation Act

provides free health care and compensation for those diagnosed with cancer who were **South of Canal Street** and exposed to the World Trade Center toxic dust between September 11, 2001 and May 30, 2002.

- 68 Cancers (including **Thyroid, Skin, Prostate, Lung, & Blood Cancers**) have been linked to the **9/11 Toxic Dust**.
- Thousands of 9/11 victims have been diagnosed with **respiratory illnesses and cancer**. Over 2,000 victims have died from 9/11 illnesses.
- **Free health care and monitoring from WTC Health Program.**
- **\$10+ billion available, over \$2 billion recovered by Barasch & McGarry.**
- The award does not affect your disability pension.
- **The Victim Compensation Fund has been permanently extended and fully funded until 2092.**

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CONTACT BARASCH & MCGARRY

212-385-8000

Michael@911victimfund.com

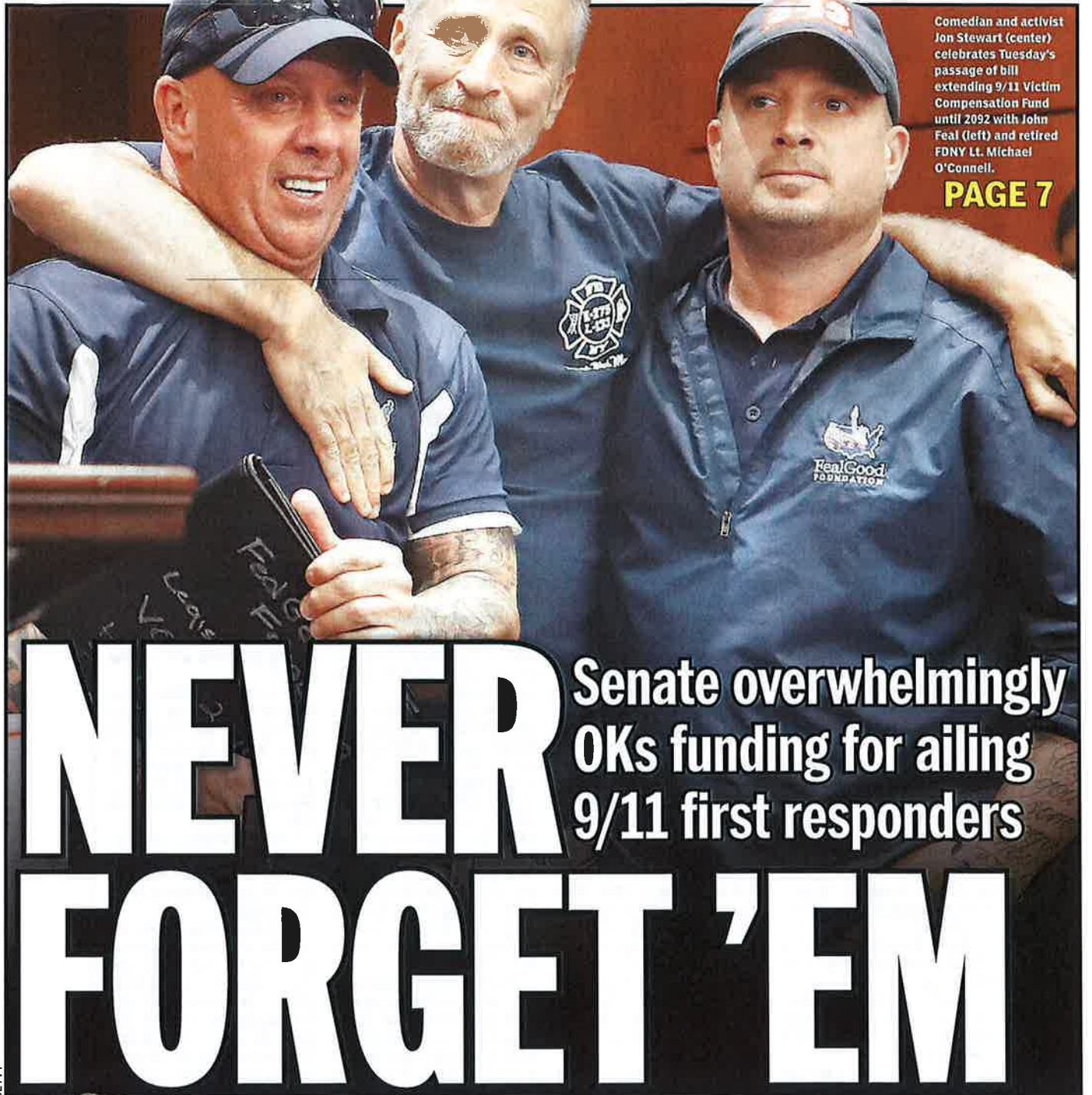
WWW.911VICTIMFUND.COM



212-385-8000

# DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK CITY NEWS PAPER



Comedian and activist Jon Stewart (center) celebrates Tuesday's passage of bill extending 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund until 2092 with John Feal (left) and retired FDNY Lt. Michael O'Connell.

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# NEVER FORGET 'EM

Senate overwhelmingly OKs funding for ailing 9/11 first responders

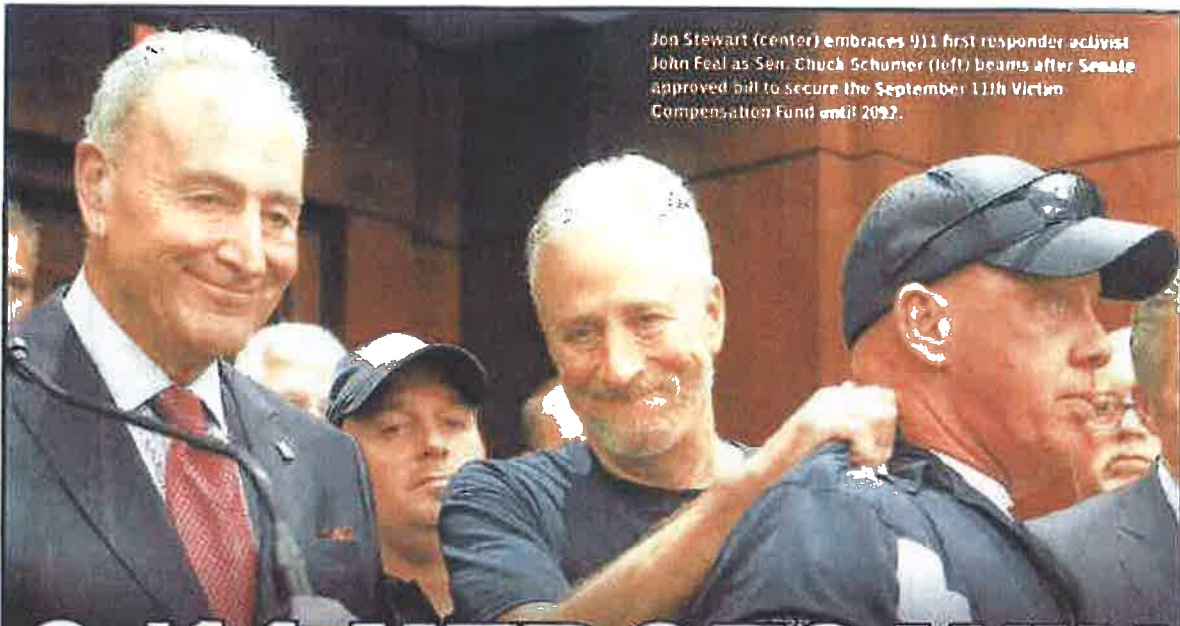
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## HOW THE VEST WAS LOST!

BLAZ IN MIDDLE OF DRAMA AFTER COP'S GEAR GOES MISSING — PAGES 4-5

BARRY WILLIAMS



Jon Stewart (center) embraces 9/11 first responder activist John Feal as Sen. Chuck Schumer (left) beams after Senate approved bill to secure the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund until 2092.

# 9/11 HEROES WIN

## Senate OKs bill extending fund until 2092

BY MICHAEL MCAULIFF  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Congress can never do anything about the growing numbers of people still dying from 9/11, but the Senate voted Tuesday to ensure the words “Never Forget” will never be just a slogan for the cops, firefighters and everyone else to run toward the twin towers after the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history.

The Senate voted 97 to 2, to pass the “Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act,” and send it to President Trump, who is expected to sign it into law Friday.

Only Republican Sens. Rand Paul and Mike Lee voted against it.

Sitting in the Senate gallery for the passage was Alvarez’s son, David, and Pfeifer’s widow, Caryn.

Both said the passage would never fill the void left by the two men, who both died of 9/11-linked cancer after battling to win passage of 9/11 legislation.

“It’s bittersweet. Today is finally the day that we can put this thing to rest,” said Caryn Pfeifer. “We’re going to the White House, and then all the heroes can rest in peace. Their families will be taken care of,

they can get through their treatments and not worry.”

The bill will enshrine in law the federal government’s ability to ease the economic losses and pain still being inflicted on people who spent days and months breathing the fumes and toxins unleashed after the South and North towers of the trade center imploded, and then smoldered for months.

The new bill would cost at least \$10.2 billion over the first 10 years, but would be open-ended to deal with whatever the need turns out to be until 2092.

Pfeifer died in 2017, after helping in the push to renew 9/11 legislation in 2015. That bill made health care permanent, but funded only five more years of the Victim Compensation Fund.

The Department of Justice administrator slashed its payouts by more than half in February, saying most of the money was gone.

Soon afterward, Alvarez made his first visit to Washington with dozens of others from the FealGood Foundation advocacy group. He explained at the time that he was taken care of, but wanted to make sure others were as well.

He returned in June with Jon Stewart, weaker and gaunt, to deliver his denunciation of Congress for making responders come to Washing-

ton again and again. His and Stewart’s efforts following testimony galvanized attention, and a month and a half later, the bill is about to become law.

It means hundreds of ailing survivors and responders who have seen their compensation slashed will be made whole, financially.

David Alvarez said he was proud of his father, and glad the bill named for him passed. But it will never make the Alvarez family whole.

“It’s difficult to be here without my father,” Alvarez said. “I’m at peace knowing that he’s at rest and at peace knowing that this is passed, and his name will live on with it. But having to go through many more milestones without him in my life will be very difficult.”

The bill had to overcome two hurdles at the last minute. GOP Sen. Rand Paul (Kentucky) tried to pay for the bill by cutting most other federal programs. Utah Republican Sen. Mike Lee tried to cap the fund at \$10.2 billion. Both failed by wide margins.

Paul defended his vote all the way.

“While I support our heroic first responders, I can’t in good conscience vote for legislation which to my dismay remains unfunded,” the Kentucky senator said. “We have a nearly trillion-dollar deficit

and \$22 trillion in debt. Spending is out of control. As I have done on countless issues, including disaster relief and [border] wall funding, I will always take a stand against borrowing more money to pay for programs rather than setting priorities and cutting waste.”

Bill supporters feared that Lee’s amendment could leave future victims and responders going hat-in-hand to Congress yet again, especially younger ones who were in school in lower Manhattan in 2001.

Lila Nordstrom, who attended Stuyvesant High School at the time, watched the bill’s progress with a sense of disbelief.

“I honestly thought that I’d have to come here every five years for the rest of my life. That’s what my whole adult life has been basically,” said Nordstrom, who started lobbying for new 9/11 legislation 13 years ago as she saw friends and acquaintances getting sick.

“I really assumed that because survivors get a lot less of the discussion, that us younger survivors might really lose out, that they might decide this doesn’t need to be extended this long,” she said. “So I’m actually thrilled and very excited not to feel the obligation to threaten to come back again.”

GETTY



**BARASCH & MCGARRY**  
LAWYERS FOR THE 9/11 COMMUNITY

**IN THE PRESS**

**NEW YORK POST**

METRO

## Growing number of Ground Zero-area men have breast cancer

By Carl Campanile

October 10, 2018 | 9:41pm



Fires burn amidst the rubble of the World Trade Center.

Safety Photos

The number of men stricken with breast cancer after being exposed to the air around Ground Zero has reached 30 — **a month after The Post reported** on a rare cluster of 15 cases. **The lawyer representing the victims said the publicity led more male victims to step forward.** **"We are representing 15 men with breast cancer, it has doubled. You**

were a direct cause of people becoming aware," said Michael Barasch of the Barasch McGarry law firm. "It's horrific. Men should not ignore the signs."

Men account for just 1 percent of breast cancer cases nationally. So those contracting the disease are stunned when told of the diagnosis.

One of them was Nat Spencer, a 70-year-old Staten Island resident who worked at a Barclays bank branch near the World Trade Center when the terrorists struck.

Spencer, noticed a "terrible itching by the right nipple" in early 2006. His primary care doctor advised him to get a mammogram and a biopsy — and a tumor was discovered. Spencer's right breast was removed and he underwent radiation and chemotherapy treatment.

"How the heck did I get breast cancer? Well, we were breathing terrible carcinogens. It was the poisons in the air. You could see the carcinogens coming out of the earth in different colors. The smell, the odor was terrible for the first 90 to 180 days," he recalled.

Spencer said he was stunned again when he heard other men who worked in lower Manhattan — including Jeff Flynn, John Mormando and Leon Silverstein, whose plights were chronicled by The Post — also got breast cancer.

Barasch said his firm also represents 500 women with breast cancer — all of whom worked or lived near Ground Zero. Women have a 1 in 8 chance of getting breast cancer.

Barasch maintains the number of 9/11 female cases also is above the norm.

With October being Breast Cancer Awareness month, he urged men and women who worked or lived near the fallen Twin Towers to educate themselves.

The death rate for men with breast cancer is higher because their tumors are usually discovered much later.

"Men should not ignore the signs. We ignore the signs," Barasch said. "The real shame is men wait too long because we don't get checked out."






**MTA: Stop saying 'Ladies and gentlemen'**



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**No joke: Louis C.K. exposed**



PAGES 4-5

# CANCER HAUNTS 9/11 KIDS

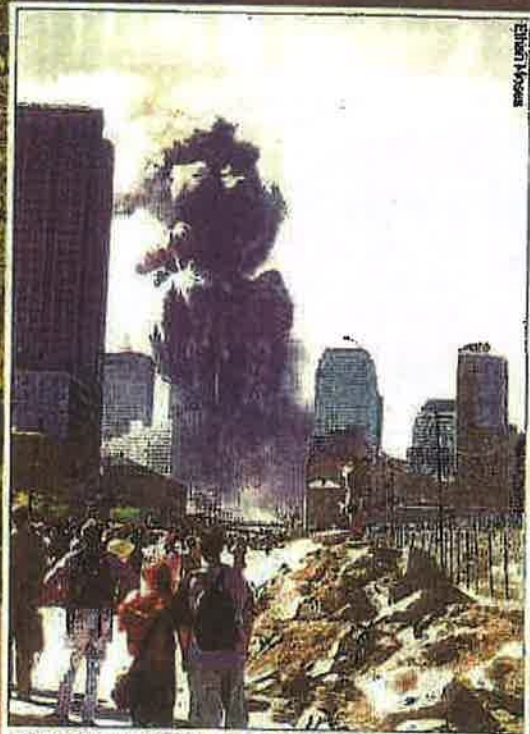
**'Cluster' of cases in GZ students**

At least 12 former students at schools around Ground Zero have developed cancer in their 20s and 30s — and they are now seeking help from the city, saying officials did little to protect them from toxins following the terror attacks.

SEE PAGE 7

# 9/11 ALUMS AILING

7  
New York Post, Friday, November 10, 2017  
nypost.com



**EXPOSURE:** Michele Lent Hirsch (left), now 32, was diagnosed with thyroid cancer nine years after she witnessed the 9/11 attacks as a student attending nearby Stuyvesant HS.

By CARL CAMPANILE,  
YOAV GONEN & DANIKA FEARS

## G. Zero schoolkids hit with cancer as adults

Firefighters and other first responders who worked at Ground Zero aren't the only ones suffering 16 years later from exposure to toxic debris.

At least a dozen young adults who attended schools near the World Trade Center when the towers were toppled now say they, too, are battling 9/11-related cancers and lung diseases after being exposed to toxins in and around their classrooms.

Michele Lent Hirsch, 32, was a senior at Stuyvesant HS on Chambers Street, a couple blocks from the WTC, when she saw the first tower fall from a classroom window.

In 2010, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, one of 68 cancers eligible for medical coverage through the World Trade Center Health Program.

Hirsch was only 25 when she was diagnosed.

"Cancer is so terrifying to deal with when you're a young person," she told The Post on Thursday.

"They sent us back to a school

that was not safe. We were exposed to toxins that were physically harmful. You don't send students back to a toxic school before it's safe."

Stuyvesant was used as a staging area by rescue and recovery workers after 9/11.

The elite public high school reopened a month later, on Oct. 9, amid debate about whether the building was free of contaminants.

One veteran teacher stayed away from the school, telling The Post at the time that dust-filled air in the building was making him sick.

In June 2002, the Department of Education agreed to clean up Stuyvesant's ventilation system after finding lead concentrations 30 times higher than federal limits.

Lawyer Michael Barasch represents the 12 graduates of schools near Ground Zero who have cancer or lung diseases. Half of them

attended Stuyvesant HS.

He said he expects many more students have 9/11-related illnesses and is encouraging them to get federal help from the WTC Health Program.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," he said. "I'm sure there are others who are not aware of it."

United Federation of Teachers President Michael Mulgrew agreed.

"We started seeing anecdotal evidence of members who were coming to us with specific types of cancer," he said. "There's now clear evidence . . . that people have been affected in very bad ways."

Mulgrew blamed the Environmental Protection Agency for telling everyone "the air is fine."

"That was a lie. It was an absolute lie," he said.

The problem came to light five years after 9/11, when some former

Stuy HS students came forward saying they had cancer.

Many joined a petition calling for a government-sponsored study, screening and health care for kids who attended the school in the year after the attacks.

Since then, it's become a growing concern, as more students and teachers who attended schools in the Ground Zero area get diagnosed with serious illnesses.

"We are now seeing what doctors are not surprised at all is basically a cancer cluster," Barasch said.

"A 28-year-old girl should not have breast cancer. A 29-year-old boy should not have colon cancer or bladder cancer. And we also represent, at this point, almost a dozen teachers."

Hirsch, the Stuy HS alum, said she was speaking out to let people know they are eligible for government-funded health care to treat 9/11-related illnesses.

She said she hadn't known she was eligible until a friend told her.

"It was kind of shocking to find out that other people have cancer," she said.

ccampanile@nypost.com

BY ERIN DURKIN

DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU

IT'S NOT JUST cops and firefighters who rushed to Ground Zero coming down with Sept. 11-related cancers — students and teachers at downtown schools are getting sick, too.

Officials are launching a campaign to urge former schoolkids and neighborhood residents to sign up for federal help, after at least 22 students and teachers were diagnosed with cancer.

Alexandra Jorge, now 37, was a senior at Pace University when the towers fell. She walked from Manhattan to Queens through a cloud of debris the day of the attack, and returned to school about two weeks later.

"For over a year, it was just horrible. You could smell it. It smelled like jet fuel," she said.

At age 28, Jorge, herself a cancer researcher in Los Angeles, was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. "It was devastating, honestly. It was a devastating diagnosis," she said.

Lawyer Michael Barasch said he represents a dozen former students — half of them from Stuyvesant High School — and another 10 teachers who have developed cancer after being exposed to toxins from the attacks.

Dozens of others have come down with respiratory diseases.

"We are now seeing what... is basically a cancer cluster," he said at a press conference Thursday. He said the then-students, who ranged from elementary school to college at the time of the attack, have developed breast, colon and bladder cancer in their late 20s and early 30s.

"What did these kids and teachers do wrong? The only thing they did wrong was listen to the EPA and believe the EPA when it said, 'Come back, the air is safe.'"

Jorge signed up for the World Trade Center Health Program, which is paying for the thyroid medication she'll have to take for the rest of her life.

"I'm cancer-free, thank God," she said.

While most of the attention has gone to first responders, anyone who lived, worked or went to school near the World Trade Center site and develops a related illness is eligible for health care and possible compensation under the Zadroga Act.

Survivors who have symptoms but aren't sure if they're eligible can get a health evaluation to check for any signs of trouble.

Maria Sanabria, 55, was an assistant teacher at Leadership and Public Service High School on Trinity Place, and fled the building with students after the attack.

"There was a lot of debris. It was very chaotic," she said. "The smoke, the ashes — I couldn't see hardly anyone. It got really scary."

Two of her former colleagues have died of cancer, Sanabria said. After years of breathing and



Maria Sanabria (inset top) was a teacher at Leadership and Public Service High School on Trinity Place on 9/11 and Alexandra Jorge (inset below) was a student at Pace University. Both have since developed thyroid cancer. People who were at Stuyvesant HS (top) on 9/11 have also suffered in "cancer cluster."

# Chalk up more vics

## 9/11 cancer hits teachers, students

throat problems, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer this year, had surgery in July and remains in treatment.

"I just broke down crying," she said of the diagnosis. "I wasn't thinking about 9/11. I was just thinking, 'Oh, my God, I'm going to die.'"

United Federation of Teachers President Michael Mulgrew said there are likely far more cancer cases among current and retired teachers, but many don't know they're eligible for help.

The union has now contacted all staffers who were working at

12 lower Manhattan schools at the time of the 2001 attack, and is reaching out to parent teacher associations.

"We started seeing anecdotal evidence of members who were coming to us with specific types of cancer. There was a trend," Mulgrew said.

"The federal government is the one who told people it was safe," he said. "That was a lie. It was an absolute lie. Education Department officials declined to comment and said the agency had no figures to show how many staffers and students have been affected."

The tenants association at Chinatown's Confucius Plaza is also holding workshops urging residents to sign up.

So far, the compensation fund has paid out \$3 billion and 80,000 have registered for the World Trade Center Health Program, but a total of 400,000 could be eligible.

Of the 80,000 registered so far, 12,015 are residents, workers, and students in the area who have gotten sick and signed up for the program.

The rest are first responders. [edurkin@nydailynews.com](mailto:edurkin@nydailynews.com)

COURTESY OF ALEXANDRA JORGE; LOUIS LANZANO; JEFFERSON SIEGEL; TODD MAISEL; DAILY NEWS



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LEE LONDON

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TRAVIS CARTER

TREVOR TAYLOR

## 9/11 WORLD TRADE CENTER ILLNESS AND WRONGFUL DEATH

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you found disabled for a 9/11-related illness: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

No

EMPLOYER ON 9/11: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROX DATES OF EXPOSURE: \_\_\_\_\_

ILLNESSES: \_\_\_\_\_

If you know anyone who lost a loved one from cancer, it's likely not too late for them to make a claim:

Name/contact of survivor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death: \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFIDAVIT OF PROOF OF PRESENCE IN THE NYC EXPOSURE ZONE**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I reside at \_\_\_\_\_.

My contact information is as follows:

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I make this affidavit of personal knowledge that \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Claimant)

was present within the NYC Exposure Zone (south of Canal Street) for some period between September 11, 2001 and May 30, 2002.

Please CHECK one or more of the below options as it applies to the claimant for some period between September 11, 2001 and May 30, 2002:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Office worker within the NYC Exposure Zone
- \_\_\_\_\_ Resident within the NYC Exposure Zone
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student within the NYC Exposure Zone
- \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher within the NYC Exposure Zone
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

1. I know Claimant because we are/were (specify one):

a. Related. Specify the family relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Siblings/ Spouses/ In-laws, etc.)

b. Not related. Specify nature of the relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Coworkers/ fellow volunteers/ friends, classmates etc.)

2. At the time of the WTC disaster, I worked at

\_\_\_\_\_ and my job title was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Your employer/organization) (Your job title)

3. I have personal knowledge that, for some period between 9/11/2001 and 5/30/2002, Claimant worked, attended school, and/or resided at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please list the claimant's employer/organization, residence or school address)

4. To the best of my recollection, I personally witnessed and had knowledge that Claimant was:

- a. At the following location(s) within the NYC Exposure Zone  
*(Please specify in as much detail as possible: exact address; cross streets; educational institution name & address; buildings/landmarks; precise area/address between the Hudson River and the East River South of Canal Street to East Broadway and Clinton Street.)*

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- b. In the NYC Exposure Zone for the following reasons  
*(Describe in detail why Claimant and you were in the NYC Exposure Zone, such as job duties/work performed, neighbors within a residential area, co-workers, classmates etc. If the Claimant was a resident please explain how you have personal knowledge that the claimant was physically present at their residence anytime between 9/11/01-5/30/2002.)*

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- c. In the NYC Exposure Zone on or around the following dates  
*(The dates/date range between September 11, 2001 and May 30, 2002 when you witnessed Claimant in the NYC Exposure Zone. Please be as specific as possible.)*

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature of Affiant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_