

York-to-New York campaign has been a big success

To quote a Billy Joel song, no doubt we'll all be in a New York State of Mind this Christmas.

For some 4,000 families in the Big Apple, this is a very sad Christmas. Those grieving the loss of a loved one at the hands of terrorists on Sept. 11 must wonder why such a cruel and senseless act has hit their family.

They do, however, know the thoughts and prayers of their fellow Americans are with them.

They also know their friends and neighbours to the north care a great deal. The support matters. It helps the healing.

Americans are a strong people. They know somehow, some way, they'll get through this. And Americans and Canadians also know there will always be a Christmas.

Here at home, residents responded to the tremendous need in New York. When Whitchurch-

Stouffville resident Vivienne Gornall and the York Region Newspaper Group (which includes the Tribune and the Economist & Sun) came together and launched the From York to New York campaign to raise money for the victims of Sept. 11. Local residents showed their kindness straight away.

The campaign total is now about \$8,000.

Contributions came from local companies such as Miller Paving and the Snider Chiropractic Clinic in Richmond Hill, and individuals. People were invited to send in their donations in honour of their New York memories. And did we get memories!

Donations came from a lady married in New York 50 years ago, from a couple who had a baby in that fine city, from a woman who always vacations in New York, from a man who popped the question in the Big Apple, from a gal who danced 'til dawn in New York, from a 25-year-old who was once snowbound in NYC and from a guy who broke his wrist in New York but wouldn't say how.

People sent notes simply



Joan Ransberry

saying they were praying for the victims.

Other notes expressed shock and bewilderment. People wrote notes encouraging Canadians to get behind Americans and on it went.

One little boy from Holland Landing rooted through the house in search of change.

He managed to find \$6 and sent us a money order, destination New York.

One lady wrote a letter pointing out that many who died were from other countries, including about 25 Canadians.

Some Canadians were killed in the hijacked commercial airplanes or buried in the rubble when the World Trade Center towers collapsed.

On Jan. 10 at 4 p.m., York-to-New York campaign organizers are inviting everyone who contributed to the campaign to attend the Tribune/Sun

office on the third floor of 34 Civic Ave., Stouffville for a reception.

Guests are from the York Region branch of the Canadian Red Cross. A cheque will be presented to them on behalf of the York-to-New York campaign. Anyone interested in more information, call 905-640-2612.

Vivienne Gornall recently visited Ground Zero in New York.

"Instead of standing by and just feeling helpless, the residents of York Region reached out to our American friends and neighbours," said Gornall.

"If the tables were turned, you could count on help from the United States."

On Christmas day at the Ransberry table, I'm going to propose a toast. It will simply be, "To New York."

Seasons Greetings from all of us at the Economist & Sun

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