

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Creating Living Memorials To Honor Lives Lost

(NAPSA)—The Unity in the Spirit of America (USA) initiative, a volunteer program that pays tribute to those lives lost on Sept. 11 is underway in cities across America. To date, there are nearly 300 projects registered, representing over 70,000 volunteers in 35 states.

Sponsored into legislation by Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and John Kyl (R-AZ) and signed into law by President Bush on Jan. 10, 2002, the USA initiative urges Americans to pledge and conduct volunteer projects in their communities as "living memorials" to those lost on Sept. 11. The Points of Light Foundation and its national network of nearly 500

Volunteer Centers are coordinating the initiative.

Disney Hand, the worldwide outreach for the Walt

Disney Company, and Ronald McDonald House Charities, a non-profit that creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children, have signed on as lead partners of the USA initiative.

Participating program partner organizations include the America the Beautiful Fund, American Society of Military Comptrollers, Connect LA, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Telephone Pioneers of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. & Volunteer Center National Network.

"This is a way to redirect anger, frustration, grief; redirect that energy in a more positive way and at the same time help the community and help the nation," said Lloyd Glick, father of Jeremy Glick, who was traveling on United Airlines Flight 93.

The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network has established a family advisory council made up of about six family members representing lost relatives.

"We are grateful to the families for helping us understand how to make our efforts to remember so much more meaningful," said



Thousands of volunteers honor lives lost on Sept. 11.

Robert Goodwin, president and CEO of the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network.

All families who lost loved ones as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks are invited to participate by sharing biographical information that will be added to the honoree database, and used to match projects with the names of those lost. To date, there are more than 350 individuals listed in the honoree database.

Anyone interested in creating living memorials through volunteer service can participate in the USA initiative. New, ongoing or already scheduled volunteer projects can qualify as USA projects as long as they are registered no later than March 1, 2003 and completed by National Volunteer Week, April 27 through May 3, 2003.

To get involved, visit the USA Web site at usa.pointsoflight.org or call 1-800-VOLUNTEER. Family members of those who perished can e-mail unityfamilies@pointsoflight.org or call 1-866-545-5307, a toll-free line, for special assistance.