

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2022

9-11 Wall of Hope Monument Almost Completely Restored

Grace Church Volunteers Help With Restoration on 9-9-22 (5p-9p) and 9-10-22 (9a-12p)

- Newly Restored Monument To Be Unveiled in November -

Providence, R.I. – September 8, 2022 – The 9-11 Wall of Hope Monument organization is thrilled to announce that the WALL OF HOPE restoration is now in its final stages.

This weekend congregants from Grace Church, Providence, are volunteering to paint 43 steel frames in preparation for the installation. Volunteers will gather at a downtown warehouse, donated by Tavares, LLC (210 West Exchange Street), where all of the tiles are currently stored.

This restoration project is special because *every single aspect of the restoration & relocation of this extraordinary monument has been donated*. From the architectural design and oversight, to the sealant being used, to the many hours of labor extracting tiles, to the many hours of welding new frames and supports; and from the donations of steel and its galvanizing...the list of altruism and effort goes on and on.

The restoration would not have happened without the generosity of Louis Gitlin at the start of this project. Providence resident and owner of MidCity Steel, his company donated all the raw steel needed to create 90 new tile frames and to build mounting supports. Nicholas Schwab, Senior CAD Specialist/Custom Fabrication Specialist, has overseen all of MidCity's contributions, "There are a lot of people who view work as a means to just make money, but I have true passion for my profession, paid or not," said Nicholas. "It has been beyond amazing to be given the opportunity to direct my passion to a project that is so meaningful. None of this could have been accomplished without Louis Gitlin, MidCity Steel's owner, as well as the great crew on our staff that contributed countless hours to ensuring the project's success."

Alex Mendoza, of Gilbane Building Company, has donated his time and expertise to guide the restoration for more than a year, and he will oversee this weekend's restoration activities. "This monument was created and restored by hundreds of volunteers over the years, including family members who lost loved ones in the 9-11 tragedy," said Mendoza.

R.I. 9-11 Wall of Hope Monument

“To me, the Wall of Hope is a reminder that our country will *never* forget those who lost their lives, and that we will continue to remember and honor them forever.”

The Reverend Jonathan Huyck, Rector of Grace Church, shared why his congregation is helping out: “The Wall of Hope is situated in downtown Providence, but is an expression of community for the entire State. Grace Church, which also calls downtown home, is a community of faith and a spiritual home for people across Rhode Island and beyond, and we are thrilled to be a part of this project of memory, love, and hope.”

Soon, Rhode Islanders and visitors from across the world will be able to visit and experience this powerful exhibit in person in the heart of downtown Providence. Later this year, the WALL OF HOPE will be installed at its new home on Sabin Street, along the Colonnade between the entrances of the Dunkin Donuts Center and the RI Convention Center, thanks our generous partner, the RI Convention Center Authority.

Just as the original 9-11 Wall of Hope brought people together to commemorate the power of love over hate, the unveiling of this newly-restored WALL OF HOPE can rekindle a sense of community and common ground among those who gather in remembrance and honor.

For more detailed information about the restoration events taking place this Friday evening and Saturday morning, please contact Jennifer Robinson at 207-423-0871 or riwallofhope@gmail.com.

For an up-to-date list of sponsors and donors, visit: <https://www.rivallofhope.org/sponsors-1>

About the Rhode Island 9-11 Wall of Hope Monument Organization: Established in 2019, the RI 9-11 Wall of Hope Monument nonprofit organization guides the reimagining, restoration, relocation and safeguarding of the magnificent Wall of Hope community artwork installation. The organization was founded with the help of generous business leaders, philanthropists and local community leaders.

To learn more about the RI 9-11 Wall of Hope, visit our website at www.rivallofhope.org