



As we enter this holiday season, we wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude for the opportunities you have given us to serve the many populations we have worked with at Life Matters, Inc. since its founding in 2002.

Due to the sensitivity of our work in helping people build health, resilience and hope in the face of life's traumatic matters, and with issues of confidentiality, we have always tried to maintain a low profile. As some of you may be aware, an article with incorrect information about our organization appeared in *The New York Post*, focusing on a 9/11 firefighter's charity, from which Life Matters had received funding. We are pleased to report two very positive developments since the article was originally published. First, after a broad review of Life Matters' operations, including funding from that now defunct firefighter's charity, the Connecticut Attorney General determined that no further investigation was warranted and that its inquiry is closed. Second, in a very rare occurrence, *The New York Post* has just published an Editor's Note (19 Dec 2008), that validates Life Matters' endorsements, integrity, and important contributions to its constituents, acknowledges that the original article needed clarification and confirms that many of the key allegations in the article needed further context.

Moving forward, Life Matters would like to thank all of its partners and celebrate the magic of the holiday season with remembrances of a year of serving numerous and diverse organizations, creating **Health, Resiliency** and **Hope**. Some highlights of our year include:

- Receiving a Commemorative Recognition World Trade Center Photograph and Plaque from the 244<sup>th</sup> Medical Clinic: New York Guard Division of Military and Naval Affairs, State of New York for "service to the City of New York, the State, and the Nation from September 11, 2001 through September 11, 2008"
- Contributing a White Paper to the NYS Governor's September 11 Workers Protection Task Force articulating the long-term psychological effects of 9/11 for enactment of long-term disability protection for those who served in the rescue and recovery operations, including the building and construction trades, at Ground Zero
- Presenting at the Geisinger Health Systems (PA) first national conference on Combat Stress Injuries and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Collaborating with Dr. Boscarino a leading expert in PTSD research, who is working with the Department of Defense on regional (NY & PA) studies evaluating the effectiveness of Life Matters' proactive interventions and other treatment approaches with returning combat veterans
- Serving as a resource to the National Guard providing pre-deployment and re-integration training/ psychological support to 4,000 personnel, beginning Jan 2009

We look forward to a happy and healthy New Year, and we at Life Matters will continue to focus our efforts of strengthening: personal health and safety, unit morale, and mission performance with an even greater empathic capacity to empower and deal with the challenges we all face in these interesting times.

Thank you again.

Dr Mike Lonski & Dr Evelyn Llewellyn