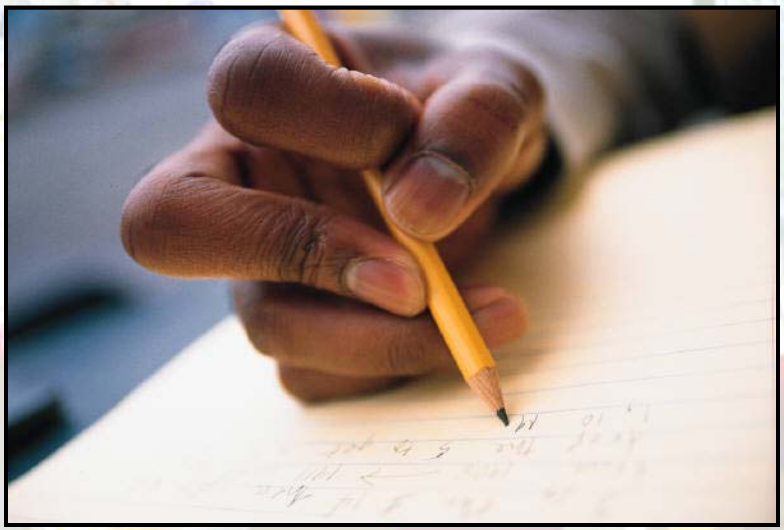
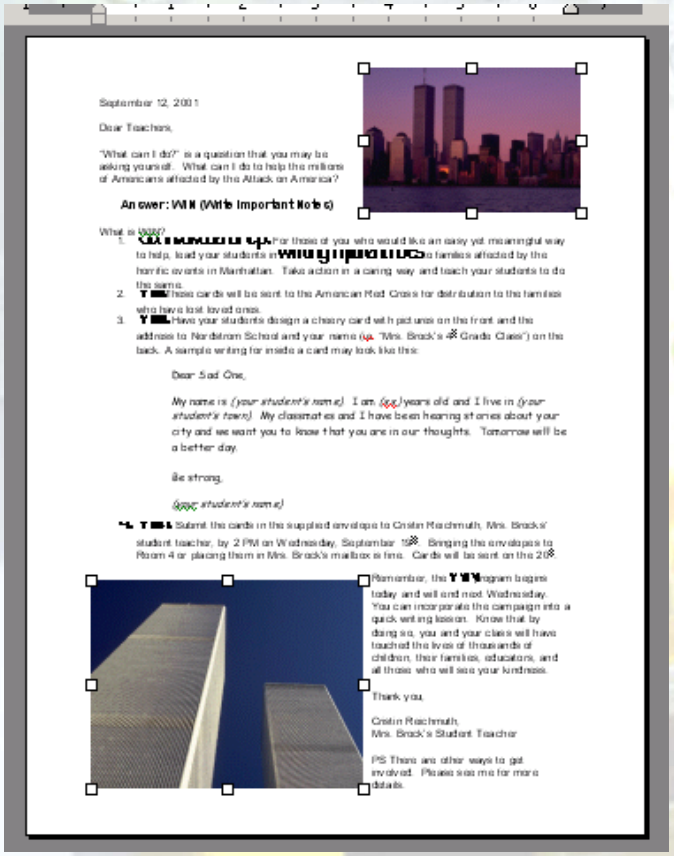
The W.I.N. Program
Writing Important Notes



By Cristin Reichmuth,
2001 Teacher Candidate

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September 12, 2001

Dear Teachers,

"What can I do?" is a question that you may be asking yourself. What can I do to help the millions of Americans affected by the Attack on America?

Answer: WIN (WIth Important Notes)

What is WIN?

1. [illegible] For those of you who would like an easy yet meaningful way to help, lead your students in [illegible] to families affected by the horrific events in Manhattan. Take action in a caring way and teach your students to do the same.
2. [illegible] These cards will be sent to the American Red Cross for distribution to the families who have lost loved ones.
3. [illegible] Have your students design a cheery card with pictures on the front and the address to Nordstrom School and your name (i.e. "Mrs. Brock's [illegible] Grade Class") on the back. A sample writing for inside a card may look like this:

Dear Sad One,

My name is (your student's name). I am (xx) years old and I live in (your student's town). My classmates and I have been hearing stories about your city and we want you to know that you are in our thoughts. Tomorrow will be a better day.

Be strong,

(xxx student's name)

[illegible] Submit the cards in the supplied envelope to Cristin Reichmuth, Mrs. Brock's student teacher, by 2 PM on Wednesday, September 19[illegible]. Bringing the envelopes to Room 4 or placing them in Mrs. Brock's mailbox is fine. Cards will be sent on the 20[illegible].

Remember, the [illegible] program begins today and will end next Wednesday. You can incorporate the campaign into a quick writing lesson. Know that by doing so, you and your class will have touched the lives of thousands of children, their families, educators, and all those who will see your kindness.

Thank you,

Cristin Reichmuth,
Mrs. Brock's Student Teacher

PS There are other ways to get involved. Please see me for more details.

Objectives of Lesson

1. Students will be able to learn about current events
2. Students will be able to enhance listening skills
3. Students will be able to improve their letter writing skills
4. Students will be able to participate in small group discussion by orally presenting their letter to the people in their group
5. Students will learn the value and moral lessons of giving

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The Letters



September 20, 2001

Dear Friends,

I am a student I go to Nordstrom School.

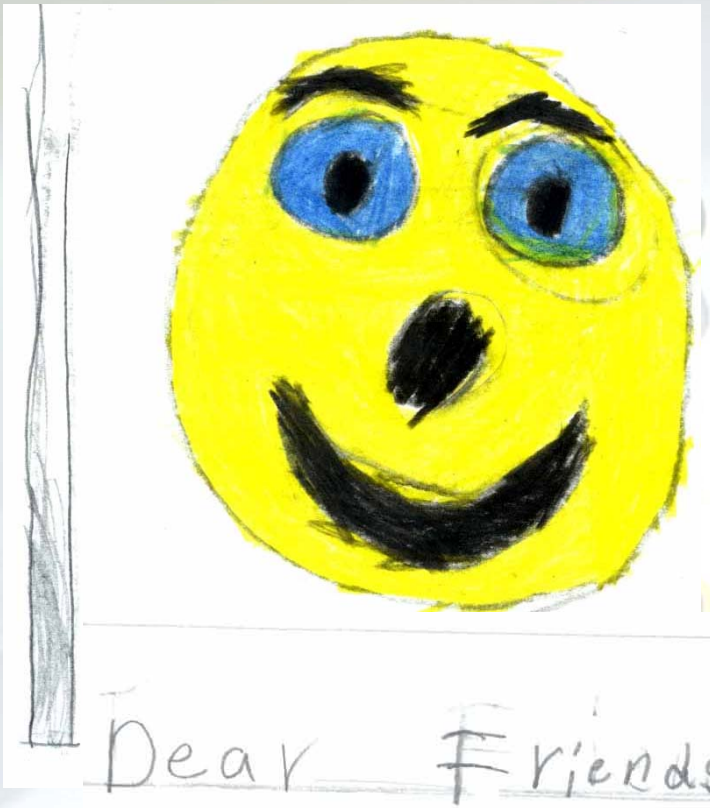
I feel sorry for you because I have never lost a loved one so I'd like to comfort you. I hope this letter to makes you feel happy.

Be Strong, a student

P.S. Never forget Your loved Ones.

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The Letters



Dear Friends, I'm

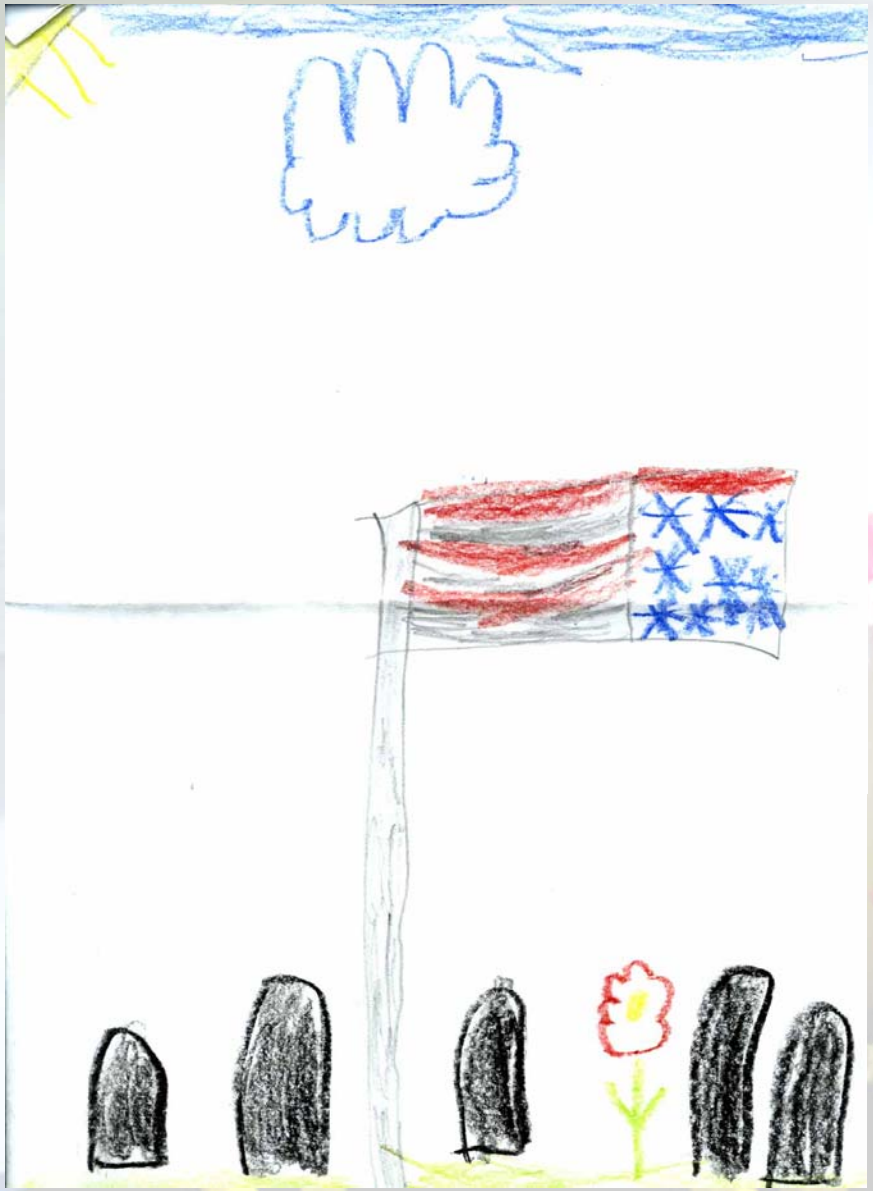
a student

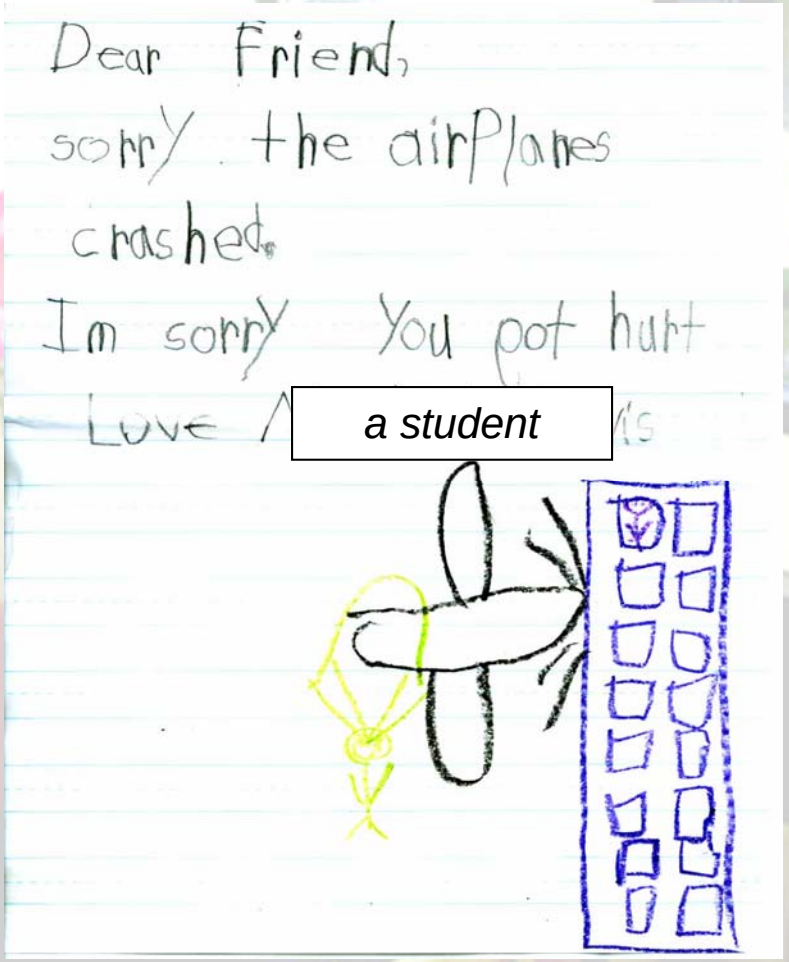
I'm sending this letter to make you feel

goodin the hart

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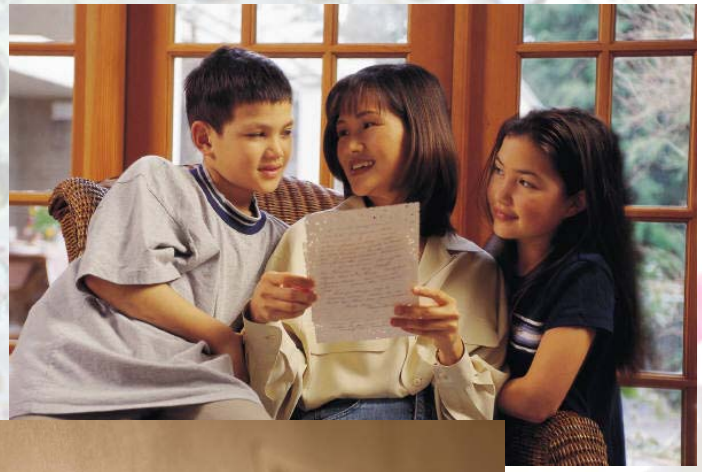
The Letters





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Distribution





- 600+ Letters
- American Airlines
- United Airlines
- Red Cross Family Assistance Center in NYC

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Morgan Hill Times

All speed ahead for BMX park on Butterfield

Service agency looking for new director

Students pen sympathy notes

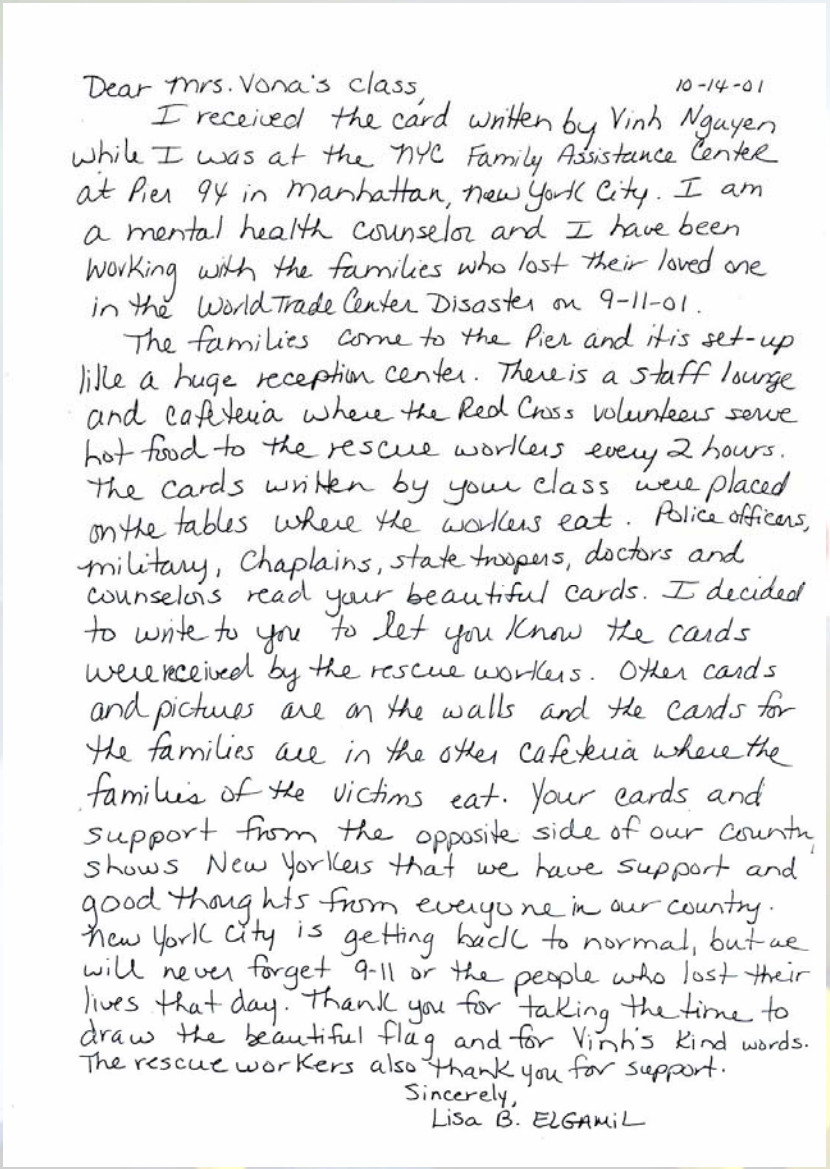
New look for downtown park through Leadership

Quilters give back to the community

Media Coverage

- Morgan Hill Times- Distribution of 20K
- Morgan Hill Unified School District-Distribution of 30K
- San Jose State Spartan- Distribution of 15K
- Nordstrom School Monthly Newsletter of 500

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Dear Mrs. Vona's class, 10-14-01

I received the card written by Vinh Nguyen while I was at the NYC Family Assistance Center at Pier 94 in Manhattan, New York City. I am a mental health counselor and I have been working with the families who lost their loved one in the World Trade Center Disaster on 9-11-01.

The families come to the Pier and it is set-up like a huge reception center. There is a staff lounge and cafeteria where the Red Cross volunteers serve hot food to the rescue workers every 2 hours. The cards written by your class were placed on the tables where the workers eat. Police officers, military, Chaplains, state troopers, doctors and counselors read your beautiful cards. I decided to write to you to let you know the cards were received by the rescue workers. Other cards and pictures are on the walls and the cards for the families are in the other cafeteria where the families of the victims eat. Your cards and support from the opposite side of our country shows New Yorkers that we have support and good thoughts from everyone in our country. New York City is getting back to normal, but we will never forget 9-11 or the people who lost their lives that day. Thank you for taking the time to draw the beautiful flag and for Vinh's kind words. The rescue workers also thank you for support.

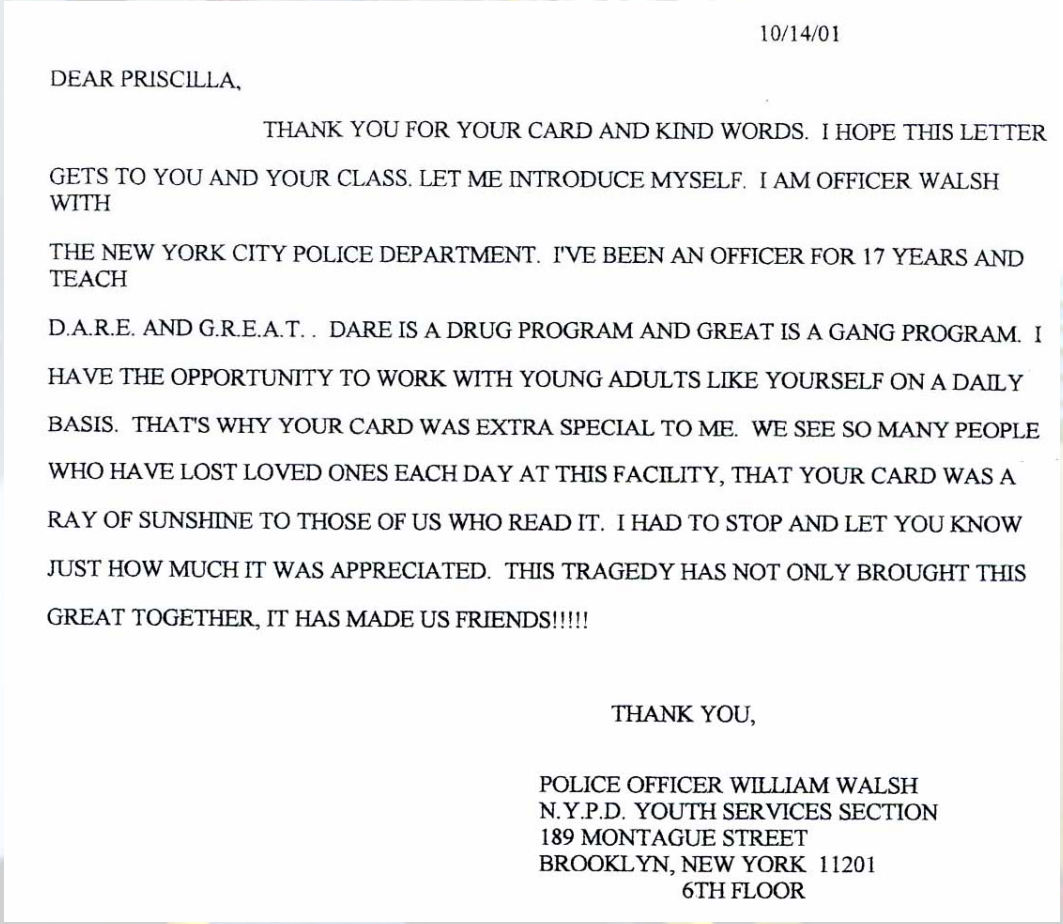
Sincerely,
Lisa B. ELGAMIL

Personal Replies

- Mental Health Counselor
- Cards were placed on tables so all families could see
- Support from opposite side of country

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Personal Replies



10/14/01

DEAR PRISCILLA,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARD AND KIND WORDS. I HOPE THIS LETTER GETS TO YOU AND YOUR CLASS. LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM OFFICER WALSH WITH

THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT. I'VE BEEN AN OFFICER FOR 17 YEARS AND TEACH

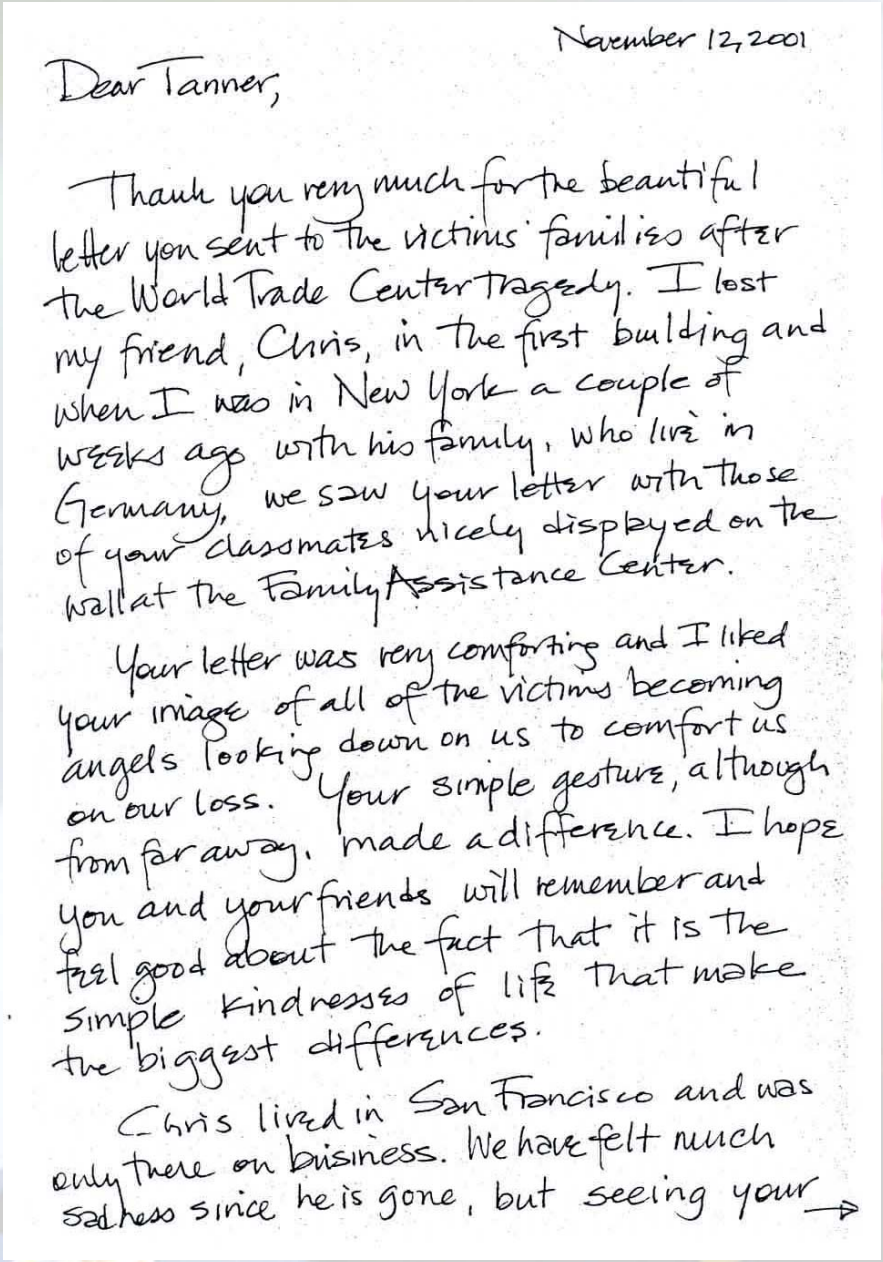
D.A.R.E. AND G.R.E.A.T.. DARE IS A DRUG PROGRAM AND GREAT IS A GANG PROGRAM. I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH YOUNG ADULTS LIKE YOURSELF ON A DAILY BASIS. THAT'S WHY YOUR CARD WAS EXTRA SPECIAL TO ME. WE SEE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES EACH DAY AT THIS FACILITY, THAT YOUR CARD WAS A RAY OF SUNSHINE TO THOSE OF US WHO READ IT. I HAD TO STOP AND LET YOU KNOW JUST HOW MUCH IT WAS APPRECIATED. THIS TRAGEDY HAS NOT ONLY BROUGHT THIS GREAT TOGETHER, IT HAS MADE US FRIENDS!!!!!

THANK YOU,

POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM WALSH
N.Y.P.D. YOUTH SERVICES SECTION
189 MONTAGUE STREET
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201
6TH FLOOR

- NYPD
- "Ray of Sunshine for those who read it"
- Had to stop and let the student know how much it was appreciated

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November 12, 2001

Dear Tanner,

Thank you very much for the beautiful letter you sent to the victims' families after the World Trade Center Tragedy. I lost my friend, Chris, in the first building and when I was in New York a couple of weeks ago with his family, who live in Germany, we saw your letter with those of your classmates nicely displayed on the wall at the Family Assistance Center.

Your letter was very comforting and I liked your image of all of the victims becoming angels looking down on us to comfort us on our loss. Your simple gesture, although from far away, made a difference. I hope you and your friends will remember and feel good about the fact that it is the simple kindnesses of life that make the biggest differences.

Chris lived in San Francisco and was only there on business. We have felt much sadness since he is gone, but seeing your →

Personal Replies

- From SF
- Lost boyfriend who was in TT for work
- Searched for school district and student to thank him
- Kind words

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Challenge and Love



- Believe in them and build trust
- Teach them how they can be catalysts to the world
- Show them they are great and they will learn to expect only greatness from themselves and from those around them

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Can you find the student teacher?

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