

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



October 2012 NEWSLETTER

Issue No 2

Ski's Hardhat Held by Senator Schumer at the Building of the 2013 Inaugural Stage

On September 20, 2012, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer launched the construction of the Inaugural platform at the First Nail Ceremony at the United States Capitol. The inaugural platform, currently being erected on the West Front of the Capitol Building, will seat about 1,600 people including former presidents, members of Congress, cabinet officials, joint chiefs, and diplomats who attend the inauguration of the next U.S. President. While making his speech, Schumer held an orange hardhat, one of the many hardhats that Ski, our inspiration, owned. In an article written by Joseph Straw covering the event, Straw wrote,

"The helmet belonged to union welder Mark "Ski" Gajewski of East Patchogue, L.I., who spent months working recovery at Ground Zero. Like many of his fellow volunteers, Gajewski died of a rare lung cancer in December. "I think it's very symbolic because in a certain sense, what he died for is what we're doing here - peaceful passing of the torch," Schumer said.

This has been a great opportunity for Ski's Open Heart Foundation to gain publicity and continue our mission helping families in need. As such, we would like to thank every one who was involved with making this happen.

For full coverage of the event read Joseph Straw's Daily News article, [Ski's Hardhat Article](#)



Hurricane Isaac Victims



SKI'S OPEN HEART FOUNDATION, USVMC-LI & AARCO held a donation collection of water, food, clothes and toiletries to send down to Louisiana to the Victims affected by Hurricane Isaac. Donations were accepted in Lindenhurst Thursday (9/6), Friday (9/7) and Saturday (9/8), and in East



Strength & Hope Walk

On September 11 to 13, 2012, Ski's Open Heart Foundation and volunteer Veterans hosted a Strength & Hope Walk from



Montauk Point to the Ground Zero Memorial. The start time was 8:46 A.M, the time the first plane hit the North Tower. The walk was to remember and honor Det. Lt MEC USCG Christopher M. Pupo (February 2, 1972 - June 23, 2012) and all those that have lost their lives after 9/11.

50% of the money raised went to a scholarship fund for Chris's three daughters and 50% was donated to Ski's Open Heart Foundation.

The walk will covered approximately 130 miles. Volunteers met up with the walkers approximately every 10 miles so they can refuel their camel backs, wave flags and show their support.

The walkers arrived at Ground Zero on September 13 where they were greeted with supporters waving flags and congratulating them. There was a ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial where Chris's parents were presented a American Flag.



Vets Start Montauk to Ground Zero Walk

Ski's Open Heart Volunteers Participates in

Patchogue and Hampton Bays on Friday (9/7)

Survival Race

Members of Ski's Open Heart Foundation put together a team, where they ran a grueling 5k in honor of those we have lost. The Survival Race is the first family focused obstacle race event of its kind in Long Island NY. It's



based on a series of obstacles and

various physical challenges designed to test an individual's limits in a fun yet challenging environment. The race involves all fitness levels. The creators of the race incorporate the tag line; "Life should be lived!" and believe that challenging one selves will enhance lives both physically and mentally.



Blood Drive

Ski's Open Heart held its first Blood Drive on July 31, 2012 at the Suffolk County Ambulance. We were able to collect 34 usable pints of blood to help out our local blood banks.

Feel Good Foundation Gala

On July 26, 2012 two members of Ski's Open

Heart Foundation attended the Feel Good foundations Gala at the Watermill In Smithtown, NY.

After a brief cocktail hour and dinner, presentations were done and donations given out. Ski's Open Heart Foundation was the recipient of one of the FGF

America's 9/11 Foundation's Ride



From August 16, 2012 through August 19, 2012, volunteers from Ski's Open Heart Foundation participated in America's 9/11 Foundation, Inc's annual America's 9/11 Ride. The ride was in remembrance of the heroes, volunteers, and victims who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and since. The foundation's volunteers wore shirts remembering the foundation's inspiration, Mark "Ski" Gajewski, who lost his life to lung cancer a little over 8 months ago. Over the course of three days, the riders made their way from the Flight 93 Memorial in Stoystown, PA then to the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and



finally ended in NYC, where the riders visited the 9/11 memorial at Ground Zero. As the riders made their way through the towns, people came out and watched as the participants rode in commemoration of the 9/11 attacks.

Check out the video below as the riders traveled through Leesburg, PA. (Our volunteers can be seen by skipping ahead to 7 minutes and 30 seconds.

[News Story](#)

For more information regarding the ride, visit the America's 9/11 Foundation's website ([Americas 9/11 Ride](#)) or Ski's Open heart.

Upcomine Events

Toy Drive Donation - Location & Times TBD
 Animal Supply Donation Drive - Location & Time TBD
 (All information will be available on the website)

donations. Flowers were presented to some of the widows of live lost on 9/11 and since. Gala was to honor the Best of The Best among the 9/11 First Responders.



Visit to 9-11 Memorial with Tuesdays Children

On July 10, 2012, First Responders and their families were invited to a private viewing of the 9/11 Memorial at Ground Zero. After visiting the memorial a dinner was held at St. Paul's Chapel.



Foundation Launch Party

On the birthday of the foundations inspiration, Ski's Open Heart was officially launched. The Launch party was held at Irish Times in Holbrook, NY. The website, facebook and Twitter Pages were all released to the public. A Chinese auction was held, dj



entertained the crowd and there was a special performance of our National Anthem by Mary Dai.

Don't forget to check out our store where you can purchase teeshirts, sweatshirts, decals, tank tops, patches and more to come!!

Clothing



About Ski's Open Heart Foundation

Our mission is to provide help to the September 11, 2001 victims, heroes, and their families. As a result of the attack on our country, many of our fellow Americans became sick and did not have medical insurance to savings to cover the cost of their medical bills. Once a person becomes sick, they often have to take a leave of absence from work or in certain severe circumstances, refrain from working altogether for the rest of their life. Consequently, our heroes and their families are unable to afford essentials such as food, shelter and clothes. The foundation will concentrate on providing our neighbors, friends, family and Fellow Americans who lost their lives or continue to suffer the consequences of September 11, 2011 with the resources necessary such as food, clothing and/or financial assistance to live full and satisfying lives. The Foundation also concentrates on continuing the benevolent work of the its inspiration, Mark W. Gajewski, by working with children charities, animals, and simply lending a helping hand wherever possible. Helping people is a small gesture that everyone can do. Please contact Ski's Open Heart Foundation if you're in need of our help. Visit our Share your Story tab and tell us your story or if you are interested in becoming a part of the Foundation, please visit our Contact Us tab. To see the story of this beloved hero and what you can do to help others take a look at our website....

www.skisopenheart.org



[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to info@skisopenheart.com by info@skisopenheart.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Ski's Open Heart Foundation | PO Box 484 | Bellport | NY | 11713