



NEWS RELEASE

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Cleveland Better Home Town Jr. Board receives Approval From 911 Families Association for Piece of World Trade Center

Cleveland, Georgia (February 3, 2010) – Cleveland Better Home Town today announced that the 911 Families Association has given preliminary approval to its Jr. Board for a piece of the World Trade Center. In November the organization submitted a formal request together with White County Fire Department for an artifact of the Trade Center to be included in a ***“Tribute to Public Safety Heroes”*** monument in front of the White County Courthouse.

“Cleveland Better Home Town was looking for a community revitalization project that would be a positive learning experience for our Jr. Board of Directors, said Maria Jurado-Flynn, Executive Director for Cleveland Better Home Town. Flynn, together with Board Chairman Garrison Baker have been mentoring these four children and teaching them historic preservation, downtown revitalization and community service. “Our children are critical to the future of Cleveland and what better way to ensure progress than to involve our future leaders,” said Garrison Baker. The Jr. Board was organized several months ago and last month the regular board of directors formally changed their bylaws to allow for the Jr. Board. Billy Parrish, Director of Downtown Development for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs attended that board meeting and said that the Jr. Board is the first of its kind in the State of Georgia and will serve as a model for other Georgia Main Street Programs.

“Because of their personal connection to public safety, these children have a very unique perspective on the important role public safety plays in our everyday lives,” said White County Fire Chief, Dickie Howard. The Jr. Board includes Tyler Dorsey, whose father is a Cleveland Police Officer; Connor Smith, whose father is a Firefighter / Paramedic; Aida Alonso, whose father is in the Army National Guard and has been in Iraq twice and the youngest Jr. Board Member is 10 year old Lindsey Hutchinson. Each of the children wrote a letter to the 911 Families Association that was included in the request from Cleveland Better Home Town.

The monument will honor local Public Safety personnel, as well as the Public Safety Heroes who tragically lost their lives attempting to save the victims in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. In October of last year the White County Board of Commissioners gave permission to the Jr. Board to build the monument in front of the White County Courthouse. A design of the monument is still being worked on.

The fundraising for the monument is off to a good start too. Barry Killian, Manager of the Cleveland Wal-Mart store heard about the project and worked with the Executive Director of Cleveland Better Home Town to request a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation. “We are delighted to support this project to honor our public safety heroes and we are proud of these kids for recognizing how important they are to our community,” said Killian.

In last week’s response to the 911 Families Association, Flynn wrote that the children would travel to the Port Authority of New York / New Jersey to pick up the World Trade Center Artifact when it was ready. “What better way to teach them leadership, respect and honor for law enforcement, firefighters and EMS than to provide them the opportunity to bring this precious item back to Cleveland themselves,” she said.

Cleveland Better Home Town is a nationally accredited Main Street Program. The focus of the organization is to revitalize the downtown business area and to assist in creating a vibrant downtown and a sense of place for the community. If you would like to help support the “Tribute to Public Safety Heroes” Monument call 706-969-3336 or visit: www.clevelandbetterhometown.org.

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