

sPress Book

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ANSWERING THE CALL: Ground Zero's Volunteers

Thousands of strangers came together as a team.

Within minutes of the Trade Center collapse on 9/11/01, emergency personnel and volunteers from around the nation responded to New York's call for help in what is considered by many as the greatest rescue mission ever. When everything could have totally fallen apart, these remarkable people revealed to the rest of the world the true meaning of the American Spirit.

This is their story!

CHESCA MEDIA GROUP in association with BEHR ENTERTAINMENT
present **"Answering The Call: Ground Zero's Volunteers"**

narrated by: Kathleen Turner senior producer: Patricia Olesky

producer: M. Bunny Dubin associate producer: Lisa DiNardo

written by: Lisa DiNardo, M. Bunny Dubin and Lou Angeli

story editor: Bill Lewis original music by: Geoff Levin

technical advisor: LT. Jim McCabe art director: James DiPietro

filmed and directed by: Lou Angeli representation: Walter Behr

www.911documentary.com

SYNOPSIS

Many personal accounts have risen from the ashes of the World Trade center Towers, but this story is unlike any that have preceded it. *Answering the Call* is the heartfelt chronicle about the thousands of emergency personnel, on and off-duty, who responded to this nation's worst disaster. The brave men and women in uniform who faced the devastating and tragic event of 9/11/01. *Answering the Call* includes never before seen footage by Lou Angeli, a veteran volunteer firefighter and filmmaker, who himself was part of the rescue effort.

Answering the Call depicts the surreal sites and sounds of the now sacred ground that was once the World Trade Center complex - a site now known throughout the world as Ground Zero. Ground Zero's volunteers - volunteer firefighters, church and relief organization volunteers, private citizens - describe their experiences responding to the call for help, how self-made leaders that were born and the inspiring teamwork of thousands of strangers who became brothers and sisters. Instead of despair, the film encourages viewers to pay tribute to the victims, the rescuers and the volunteers of Ground Zero by engaging in volunteer service.

Answering the Call is a story that will remain with viewers long after the images have left the screen. Writes Jim Careless, himself a video journalist. "The integrity of Angeli's work stands as a memorial to the fallen, a tribute to the rescuers, and a trusted record for the future."

PRESS SNAPSHOT

TYPE	Documentary
RATING	Not rated
FORMAT	Digital Betacam
LENGTH	65 Minutes (with alternate versions)
SOUND	Dolby Digital SR.D
ASPECT RATIO	4:3
LANGUAGE	English
YEAR OF COMPLETION	2006
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION	United States
FILMED ON LOCATION	New York & New Jersey
DISTRIBUTOR	Behr Entertainment
PRODUCTION COMPANY	Chesca Media Group LLC
FEATURED MUSIC	Geoff Levin – Geoff Levin Music

BIOS

Lou Angeli - Director, Cinematographer and Editor

Answering The Call: Ground Zero's Volunteers is directed by former firefighter and veteran filmmaker Lou Angeli. For sixteen days following the collapse of the twin towers, Angeli recorded rescue and recovery at the emergency village that emerged on the perimeter of Ground Zero.

Lou was one of the very first subject matter experts to report details from the disaster site for network television. Beginning on September 12th, he appeared on every major television network, scores of international news programs, even local cablecasts, to report on the progress of rescuers and volunteers at Ground Zero.

Angeli has been involved in firefighting and television production most of his life. His vast personal experience as a firefighter and EMT enable him to capture dramatic situations in powerfully realistic videos, many of which have been seen by viewers worldwide.

Lou Angeli, the filmmaker, has contributed to programs like ABC's 20/20, Dateline: NBC, Rescue/911, Discovery Channel and The Learning Channel. During his television career, he has served as a producer/director for Philadelphia's PBS station, a remote director for ESPN, and a features cameraman for CNN. He also served as Executive Producer for the Firehouse Video Training System, the nation's first accredited firefighter video training series.

As a writer, Angeli provides the reader a riveting peek at life deep inside the trenches of emergency response. He has been referred to as the firefighters' storyteller, and his written work includes breaking news, features, fiction – but most importantly articles dealing with the safety and well-being of fire-rescue personnel.

Lou Angeli remains active in fire and rescue as a member of the recently established US Fire Corps, a federal program designed to encourage citizens to volunteer in their local fire-rescue agencies. He serves on the Delaware Film Office's Creative Services Initiative and is a voting member of the National Association of Television Programming Executives.

Patricia A. Olesky – Senior Producer

For over 20 years, Ms. Olesky has worked at an executive level for government departments in the state of Delaware. She brought her legal background and expertise to the Delaware Department of Justice where she was the administrative assistant to Attorney General Richard S. Gebelein. Ms. Olesky served in this capacity from 1978 through 1982.

She later moved to the position of Executive Assistant for the New Castle County Executive's Office where she was overseer for county board appointments and coordinated special projects for the County Executive.

From 1987 to 2001, Ms. Olesky was the Chief Deputy Register of Wills for New Castle County, DE managing the day-to-day operations of the office including preparation of a \$1 million dollar budget, supervision of staff and administrative matters. Ms. Olesky retired from that position in early 2001 and has continued working part time at the office guiding the legal community, general public and the staff on estate probate matters.

Throughout her career Ms. Olesky has closely worked with several Republican candidates both at the state and county levels. She served as a volunteer at the 2000 Republican Convention held in Philadelphia, PA.

Now as senior producer, Ms. Olesky brings her wealth of business, legal and people skills to the coordination of the film project. She is particularly pleased to be serving as team leader for *Answering the Call: Ground Zero's Volunteers*.

M. Bunny Dubin - *Producer and Writer*

Bunny Dubin grew up in the halcyon days of the 1950's, raised by parents who always gave back to their community. For those who know her, it came as no surprise that she chose to spend a year doing humanitarian work in South Africa in the dangerous times of the mid 1980s when Apartheid was being dismantled.

After the events on the morning of 9/11/01 she made her way to New York City and volunteered with her church group, spending 30 days in and around Ground Zero.

She is a special advisor to the founder of "The Women Ambassadors Foundation" in Washington, DC, is one of the founding mothers of "Global Mothers", has spoken on Capitol Hill on the important role of women, as well as Religion in volunteerism, and for progress toward peace.

She is also very active in interfaith initiatives including education on and tolerance toward world religions and cultures.

She and her husband are advisory board members for The International Foundation for Human Rights and Tolerance. This foundation promotes, on an international scale, the understanding and application of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights as written in 1945 by then, First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

Ms. Dubin is also a board member for "Sheltering Arms" a family resource center in her hometown. She hopes she is setting a good example for her own two children who are her inspiration to help make this a better world.

Ms. Dubin's background as a portrait artist, editor of a books, counselor and especially her role as a Mom have helped hone skills vital to producing a film.

Bunny feels that *Answering the Call: Ground Zero's Volunteers* will forward a message of unity and hope that can improve the human condition by demonstrating that we not only can but must reach out and help one another.

BEHIND THE SCENES

On the morning of September 11th, 2001, Lou Angeli was putting on the coffee when he saw on television the horrific sight of the World Trade Center attack. Moments later he received instructions to head for New York in a dual role; as a first responder firefighter and also as a producer of disaster training films. For the next 16 nights and days thereafter, he shot footage at the "Ground Zero" site. As both a firefighter and a cameraman, he faced a dilemma; should his role as a firefighter take precedence over his responsibilities to document historic tragedy. As the only sanctioned videographer within the yellow tape perimeter Lou Angeli would have to do both.

"As a veteran volunteer firefighter as well as a filmmaker, I wanted to share my experience of what it was really like at Ground Zero from the perspective of the rescue and recovery workers. Yet I wanted the public to see not only the physical and emotional exhaustion experienced by these brave men and women, but the way they worked together with such an amazing level cooperation and compassion. Those we have interviewed for this documentary have shared my view that the way ground zero volunteers came together was unprecedented in the history of our nation."

Many of the rescue and recovery workers contributed to the effort at Ground Zero for over 24-hours straight in those early days, and many returned for weeks and months on their days off.

Firefighters, urban search and rescue workers, welders, iron-workers, crane operators, construction professionals, rescue dogs and their handlers went well beyond the boundaries of their job, putting in hundreds of hours as volunteers, to try to find survivors and later to do what was needed when rescue became recovery. Their tireless efforts could not save the victims of that tragic day, but their care and commitment allowed hundreds of families to find closure. Angeli also noticed during his Ground Zero experience the enormous contribution made by thousands of volunteers who supported the rescue and relief workers. They also worked tirelessly to provide water, food, supplies and human connection to the rescue and recovery workers, and were among Ground Zero's unsung heroes.

Angeli had been reluctant to make this footage public until recently mainly due to the sensitive nature of this horrific event and the deep wounds it had inflicted in the hearts of Americans. But in 2004, other film professionals talked to him about how this footage could be woven into a worthy story. One that pays tribute to the fallen, remembers the heroes, and summons up lessons to be learned. The timing was right and Chesca Media Group, led by Patricia Olesky, made this possible by agreeing to produce the project.

Lou Angeli, a 20-year veteran volunteer firefighter and filmmaker, and Bunny Dubin, a humanitarian and long-time volunteer, are the creative forces behind *Answering the Call*. Both served as volunteers at Ground Zero. Lou worked hand-in-hand with the rescue and recovery workers at Ground Zero, while Bunny coordinated hundreds of volunteers to support their efforts. Angeli and Dubin never actually met at Ground Zero, but learned of each other in 2004 and determined that together they could best tell the parallel stories of both rescue and support volunteers.

Answering the Call: Ground Zero's Volunteers begins by taking the viewer back to the attacks on and the collapse of the World Trade Center towers on 9/11/01. With that first 24 hours as a backdrop, *Answering the Call* then weaves the stories of rescue and support volunteers at Ground Zero as it develops its own identity and energy. What happened there illustrates the power of the human spirit in the midst of an unimaginable tragedy. "We were all a brother and a sister at Ground Zero", one subject recalls.

Angeli and Dubin sought to represent a diverse cross-section of individuals and through their connections at Ground Zero, as well as research of rescue/recovery/relief organizations, they were able to obtain volunteers that reflect both the rescue and support sides of the story. These interviews uncovered new facets of the story as well as additional types of volunteers so essential to the mission. For some who were interviewed, it was the first time they actually reflected on their experience; having become like family with those that they never saw again away from the perimeter.

Answering the Call addresses, mainly on a personal level, some of the "lessons learned" from the Ground Zero experience. The film concludes with a montage of inspirational words and images that honor the victims and volunteers of 9/11/01 and likewise encourages viewers to serve as volunteers.

Press Advisory for USA/Canada DVD Release (August 9, 2006)

WILMINGTON, Del., Aug. 9 /PRNewswire/ -- Released today: A new DVD documentary entitled ***Answering The Call: Ground Zero's Volunteers***, presents a unique opportunity to experience firsthand the rescue and recovery operation at the World Trade Center - from the perspective of the rescuers and volunteers who served on the front lines at Ground Zero.

Directed by filmmaker and former firefighter Lou Angeli, and narrated by actress Kathleen Turner, ***Answering The Call*** captures the critical role the Ground Zero volunteers played in the massive rescue effort - everyday people working together in an effort to save lives. Both Turner and Angeli served as volunteers at Ground Zero.

What many Americans do not know is the sheer size of the mission: More than 70,000 individuals from all over the nation streamed to lower Manhattan in answer to New York City's call for help. "The film is most notable for its extensive interviews with those who put their lives on the line," writes Frank Scheck of the Hollywood Reporter. The images conjured are ones of courage, heroism, fearlessness, endurance - in other words, the true human spirit.

While the documentary's timeline overlaps that of Oliver Stone's World Trade Center, ***Answering The Call*** is not a re-creation. Using never-before-seen footage, it is a vivid, behind-the-scenes remembrance, which transports the viewer further and deeper into the disaster scene than any previous film.

Answering The Call was introduced this past year to select audiences amid excellent reviews. This important historical document is now available as a DVD for everyone to view and experience.

"Our objective as we developed this film was to share the full extent of the volunteers' anguish and dedication with the largest audience possible - from home, classroom, church, firehouse and office," said Angeli.

The DVD is distributed by Direct-Source and is available through dozens of retail and online stores, including Wal-Mart, Best Buy, and Barnes & Noble.

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