



The U.S. and the World:
SS.7.CG.4.4
September 11, 2001
READING #7

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.4.4 Benchmark Clarification 7: Students will recognize the ways in which humanitarian, charitable, and volunteer aid following the events of September 11th, 2001, reflects the principles of civic responsibility, civic virtue, and the common good.

As citizens of the United States, we have certain responsibilities to each other and to the **common good**. Embodied in this is the idea of **civic virtue**. Civic virtue means the good characteristics, attitudes, practices, and activities that we engage in as participants in our constitutional republic. One of our most important civic virtues is volunteering. After the events of September 11th, 2001, many Americans from all walks of life demonstrated what it means to be a virtuous, responsible, and engaged citizen.

Soon after the attacks of 9/11, American citizens volunteered to help sort through the rubble. They also offered to use their skills, in organization, in medical care, and in support, to provide **humanitarian aid** to families of victims, survivors, and active first responders dealing with the pain and suffering of 9/11. Many of them put the needs of others ahead of their own. Volunteering their time, their energy, and their skills to improve the lives of their fellow Americans embodies the importance of the common good and serves as an example of living up to the civic virtues and principles envisioned by our Founders.

Charitable giving to those impacted by 9/11 also demonstrates an adherence to these principles. Many Americans who could not go to New York as volunteers offered financial support to those who were impacted by the events of September 11th. According to the Ford Foundation, more than 1 billion dollars was raised in just two months after the events of 9/11. Americans, recognizing the importance of the common good and supporting their neighbors, donated in record numbers.

Many foundations were established after the events of 9/11, and continue to this day. There are organizations that support the families of victims and survivors. Some also provide financial and medical support to first responders and civilians suffering health effects from dust and toxic materials they inhaled in the effort to rescue survivors and clear the rubble from the Twin Towers. Many Americans also donated time, money, and skills to support the creation of the **National September 11th Memorial and Museum**, built on the site where the Twin Towers once stood.

Finally, American civic and political leaders played a large role in encouraging Americans to remember their civic responsibilities and virtues and the common good. President George W. Bush and New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, for example, gave speeches and modeled ways in which citizens could come together to support each other in a time of crisis.

common good - beliefs or actions that are seen as a benefit to the community rather than individual interests

civic virtue - the good characteristics, attitudes, practices, and activities of participants in a political system

humanitarian aid - direct work or financial support focused on improving the health and happiness of other people

charitable giving - financial or other donations that are dedicated to a particular cause

National September 11th Memorial and Museum - national museum in New York City located at the site of the former World Trade Center that explains the events of 9/11 and honors those that lost their lives