



April 22, 2003

Emmanuel Omokha
American Pan-African Relief Agencies
2403 Second Ave.
NY, NY 10035

Dear Emmanuel Omokha:

The events of September 11th led to an unprecedented need for social services agencies to work with the thousands of people who were affected by this tragic act and provide them with assistance. In the initial stages, the main locations for these services were the Family Assistance Center at Pier 94 (FAC) and the Disaster Assistance Services Centers (DASC). There, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and Safe Horizon provided crisis intervention, information and referrals, and intake for financial and other assistance to thousands of those affected. Often, this meant relying on the work of both local and visiting volunteers.

While we remain proud of our efforts there, we have, in conjunction with many of you, reflected on ways that these services could have been improved for clients. One lesson that we learned was that utilizing the vast talents and resources of the New York City-based social services network, including American Pan-African Relief Agencies, would both improve services to clients and alleviate the pressure on such a small group of agencies. In the event that there is another large-scale disaster in New York City, we would hope to involve staff from a wider variety of social services agencies in this initial stage of response, temporarily deploying them to work as volunteers at a FAC or DASC.

To this end, we would like to invite you and a Human Resources representative from American Pan-African Relief Agencies to attend a meeting at The American Red Cross on May 12, 2003. This meeting will describe a coordinated effort between the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and Safe Horizon to recruit and train 800 Intake Specialists and 200 supervisors from agencies across the city to provide the emergent services after a major disaster. This has been planned in partnership with the 9/11 United Services Group (USG), which has been working since December 2001 to coordinate the services provided by a network of agencies on the front lines of the September 11th recovery effort – including the above. This joint training effort will ideally build on the strengths of the above agencies, the wider USG network, and the expertise of agencies like yours in the event of a future disaster.

This training would not only provide a wider range of skills, language and cultural capacity, to the agencies at the FAC and DASC, but would allow clients to be exposed to a wider range of agencies from whom they may choose to receive longer-term services, such as service coordination. This would allow for a smoother transition for both clients and the agencies involved. In addition, this training will cover topics such as crisis intervention and trauma response that will benefit your staff in their everyday work.

It is our hope that you have staff available from American Pan-African Relief Agencies for this important endeavor. Through a collaborative effort of the social service agencies in New York City, we can collectively help those in need. **We hope that you and your Human Resources representative can attend the meeting on May 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the American Red Cross in Greater New York at 150 Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan (between 66th and 67th Streets), where we will discuss this plan further and give you the opportunity to ask questions.**

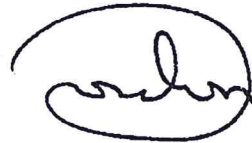
Please confirm your attendance for the meeting on May 12th with Stephanie Mack, 212-875-2114 by Friday, May 2.

On behalf of the American Red Cross in Greater New York, The Salvation Army, Safe Horizon and the 9/11 United Services Group, we thank you for considering this important initiative.

Cordially,



Robert M. Bender, Jr.
American Red Cross in Greater New York



Gordon J. Campbell
Safe Horizon



Lt. Colonel William H. LaMarr
The Salvation Army



Stephen D. Solender
9/11 United Services Group