



**St. Paul's Chapel and "Hugs Across America" invite you to help us send teddy bears to the children of our New York National Guard Troops about to be deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.**



**If you would like to participate, please bring a**



**New, 10"-14", huggable bear  
(with a note or card from you tied on a ribbon!)  
to  
St. Paul's Chapel at Broadway and Fulton Street  
212-233-4164  
and we will see that it gets to a child whose parent  
will be overseas serving our country this holiday  
season.**

## THE STORY OF



Immediately after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, teacher Sue Lucarelli - or "Mama Luc" as she's known at Manhattan's Churchill School - struggled to find a way to help her little ones cope with the terrible fear and trauma they were all experiencing. As New Yorkers, some of the children had parents who worked in the Trade Center, while others lived near the Towers or had witnessed the events on their way to school. Although Mrs. Lucarelli came up with many craft projects to allow them to express their feelings and to reach out to rescue workers at Ground Zero, one little boy made very clear what they all really needed: he asked her for a hug. "Mama Luc" not only gave him a great big bear hug, she also got him a little teddy bear to keep and hug whenever he got scared. That child's need and Lucarelli's response were the beginning of *Hugs Across America*.

Soon every classroom at their school was requesting bears and, as word got out, teachers at other schools throughout the city were calling to find out about the "September Bears" project. With the help of her good friends Pastor Stuart and Mrs. Mary Clark of the Community Reformed Church of Manhasset, and through the generosity of many thousands across the country, Lucarelli would eventually oversee the delivery of over 58,000 bears to New York City school children and another 15,000 to rescue and recovery workers through St. Paul's Chapel. And that was just the start!

Today, *Hugs across America* continues to help children in crisis. As chapters are established across the U.S., bears are being sent to kids whose homes have been destroyed by fires, floods or other natural disasters, as well as to the children of over 10,000 of our Armed Forces members serving overseas.