

Light for the spirit:

Project Renewal staff, left to right, Madhavi Nambiar, Lynne Hurdle-Price, Linda Lantieri and Robin Stern, leading a retreat at Stony Point Center for teachers affected by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001



Carmella B'Hahn

"The need was so great," said Linda Lantieri, director of Educators for Social Responsibility's Project Renewal. She said some teachers were forced to flee down city streets that day, classes in tow, or to consider the previously unthinkable idea of taking students home with them for the night.

Now, Project Renewal—with the help of a \$145,000 grant provided by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance—is helping teachers and counselors rebuild those personal reserves during eight retreats at Stony Point Center, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) national conference facility located about an hour from New York City.

Stan Hankins, who oversees U.S. disaster response for the PCUSA, says it is a fitting project, especially given the denomination's history of support for education. The "sizable" response of Presbyterians after the Sept. 11 attack, he says, allowed the church to look for these sorts of "pockets of need" that might have otherwise gone unmet.

The New York City Museum School has an enrollment of 400 students, but for eight months hosted an additional 300 students. Some teachers had to give up normal classrooms, moving instead from room to room with a cart.

Betsey von Burg, a counselor at Museum School, attended a Project Renewal retreat and found it an opportunity for people to set aside stress and sadness and "work on themselves in a structured way." During regular time off from work, she says with a laugh, "you may or may not do that. You may just do the laundry."—*Beverly Bartlett* □

Time out for teachers

Presbyterian gifts fund retreats

The Sept. 11 attacks affected 27 schools. Many were displaced for months by building damage or rescue operations.

Teachers and guidance counselors must keep a private reserve of strength and resilience if they want to be good caretakers of children. But on Sept. 11, 2001, many New York City educators crossed the normal boundaries between their personal and professional lives.