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MACY'S SHOPPING DAY, OCTOBER 16, SUPPORTS 9/11 CANINES

West Nyack, NY, October 6, 2010 – Those who shop at Macy's on Saturday, October 16th will have a chance to save 10%-25% on selected merchandise while supporting the Canine Search and Rescue (SAR) Community of 9/11. Macy's Shop for a Cause will take place at all Macy's stores nationwide that day, with discount tickets sold in advance for a donation of \$5.

At Macy's at Palisades Center Mall in Rockland County, shoppers will have the chance to meet real search and rescue dogs with their handlers at a meet-and-greet from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A live concert featuring cabaret singer Nancy Bach and soprano Kirstin Plumley of the Twins Mothers' Club of Bergen County is scheduled for 12:15 p.m. There will be a fashion show at 1:15 featuring the Amalgamate Dance Company and baritone John Cimino of Creative Leaps International, along with search and rescue dogs. Arts & crafts projects for kids will be available from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the canine groups Tails of Hope Foundation and Finding One Another, as well as several canine search and rescue non-profit organizations. These groups are honoring and celebrating the canine search and rescue efforts of 9/11 with a year-long commemoration culminating in September 2011.

“We are honoring the whole community who worked during that terrible time and especially the urban canine search and rescue teams,” said Barbara Ela, Acting Executive Director of the 10th Anniversary Canine Search and Rescue Tribute. “These canine teams worked right alongside the police, firefighters, and many others at Ground Zero and suffered some of the same side effects.”

According to Penny Sullivan, President of Ramapo Rescue Dog Association, based in Bergen County, NJ, and 10th Anniversary Canine SAR Tribute Advisory Board member, “Most SAR teams are entirely volunteer. They give freely of their time and service ‘so that others may live.’ We are definitely in need of programs to benefit our working dogs and handlers—programs such as those to fund medical research to address the many health issues affecting our dogs over time.”

Over a 10-year period of time, these average citizens not only volunteer their time, but incur expenses ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 to purchase their working dog, train, equip, and certify themselves and their canine partner, provide veterinary care, etc. “It's expensive and time-consuming, but they do it out of the goodness of their hearts to benefit and strengthen our society,” said Linda Blick, founding board member of Tails of Hope Foundation, based in Orange County, NY, and chair of 9/11 10th Anniversary Search and Rescue Tribute. Tails of Hope has a large presence in the Bergen/Rockland County areas.

Locally, tickets for Macy's Shop for a Cause on October 16 are available beginning Thursday, October 7, at area stores in Bergen County for a \$5 donation. A tear-off on the ticket may be entered in a drawing for a \$500 Macy's gift card at the store on October 16th.