

About John Feal

A day after the 9/11 attacks, Demolition Supervisor John Feal does as many others do, and goes to Ground Zero to help with rescue efforts. On September 17th, 2001, an estimated 8000lbs of steel crushed his left foot. Doctors later amputated part of it. As a result, he spent two weeks at Bellevue Hospital, and eight weeks at North Shore In University.

From a legal standpoint, the most important thing about the injury was its timing. A victim compensation fund created by Congress decreed that only injuries occurring in the first 96 hours were eligible for compensation. Mr. Feal was hurt about a day too late to qualify.

In 2003, he began a solo effort to help responders because according to John, "with power comes responsibility, and those in power (elected officials) have failed heroes, good people and Americans at large, with corruption, incompetence and greed. That is why I started, to see good people not get abandoned anymore." In 2004, he helped to co-found Unsung Heroes Helping Heroes, an organization dedicated "to advocate, disseminate information and raise funds to assist responders, clean-up rescue and recovery workers from the 9-11-01 World Trade Center disaster and other catastrophic events, in securing the necessary medical and psychological treatment, rehabilitation and pecuniary benefits."

In August of 2005, John started his own organization using his name, The FealGood Foundation. Their goal is "to spread awareness and educate the public about the catastrophic health effects on 9/11 first responders, as well as to provide assistance to relieve these great heroes of the financial burdens placed on them over the last five years. A secondary goal of our Foundation is to create a network of advocacy on 9/11 health care issues. We not only advocate for Ground Zero workers, but show others how they can advocate for themselves and help others through grassroots activism."

Since the inception of the FealGood Foundation, Anne Marie Baumann, Vito Valenti, Alan Forcier, Frank Andrea, Sean Riordan, Joe Miccoli, and Glen Klein have joined to help John with his efforts. The FealGood Foundation was contacted by Michael Moore in March 2005 in an effort to get 9/11 First Responders for his latest movie, "Sicko." In September 2006, Paul Grossfeld emailed John asking for help finding a kidney. John agreed in their first correspondence to donate his own. On August 30th, 2007, John donated his kidney to Maureen Burns so Paul Grossfeld could receive a kidney of his own.

The FealGood Foundation has appeared on "The View", "Star Jones", "Amy Goodman", "Fox & Friends", and many other mainstream media outlets. They have managed to help hundreds of 9/11 First Responders, and continue to help more everyday.