

Brooke Jackman Foundation Gala Wine Experience on October 11

'We Will Never Forget WTC - 9/11'

Plan to celebrate Brooke Jackman's life by making a difference in the lives of children by attending the sixth annual cocktail reception and auction on Thursday, Oct. 11. The gala takes place at The New York Palace Hotel at 455 Madison Ave., New York from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The event is a "Wine Experience" that lets you taste and compare vintages from wineries from around the world.

The proceeds benefit the Brooke Jackman Foundation Literacy Programs. The tickets are \$200 each with a good faith estimate of the value received as \$110. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information please call 212-352-1580 or check them out on the Internet at www.brookejackmanfoundation.org.

The Brooke Jackman Foundation, Inc. was set up after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in her honor. After graduating from Columbia University in 2000, Brooke began working for Cantor Fitzgerald on the 104th floor. The night before the attacks she told her mom that there was more to life than making money. She had decided to apply to graduate school for social work.

The Jackman family said, "So many kind people have offered to help our family during this time of great tragedy. The only way to see a glimmer of light through these dark days was to think of Brooke's spirit. Her compassionate and



Brooke Jackman, the inspiration for the Brooke Jackman Foundation.

charitable demeanor had to be spread. Her determination and love to those in need could not end. The Brooke Jackman Foundation, Inc. was established to see Brooke's visions fulfilled."

Erin Jackman is the director of The Brooke Jackman Foundation. Every few months Ms. Jackman attends a very special graduation ceremony in a disadvantaged neighborhood in New York City. As she hands out diplomas to elementary school children and their parents, who have completed a six-week reading



Erin Jackman, whose energy sparks the Brooke Jackman Foundation.

Photo by Cheryl Zabinski.

workshop together, she knows she's getting much more in return — smiles, hugs, kisses, bouquets and, most of all, the knowledge that her sister's death was not in vain.

Brooke Jackman was only 23 when she died in the attack on the World Trade Center. But Erin takes comfort in the fact that the foundation her family created in Brooke's name has bestowed over 1,000 literacy diplomas to grateful families. "Brooke was my best friend, and I miss her every day," says Erin. "One woman in

our reading program told me that Brooke lives on in each of the children we help. And I believe her."

Nothing could make Brooke happier than spreading the joy of reading, especially to needy children. "She was never without a book — she read one a night," says Erin, a New York City elementary school teacher, recalling her sister's daily visits to her neighborhood bookstore, where she was instantly recognizable with her backpack and water bottle. Though Brooke had been an assistant bond trader at Cantor Fitzgerald for several months, she had always devoted much of her time to those less fortunate, working at soup kitchens, a thrift shop to benefit cancer patients, and schools for disabled children. And she had already completed her application to Columbia University for a master's in social work. "She didn't care about making money," says Erin. "She just wanted to help people."

In the past five years the Brooke Jackman Foundation has opened three libraries and held scores of literacy workshops and tutoring programs at schools and community centers across the city. It's distributed some 1,250 "Brooke Packs" — backpacks filled with books, school supplies, and a Walkman for listening to books on tape — to workshop graduates and needy children in shelters (and to victims of Hurricane Katrina). The group has also provided 60 scholarships to inner-city children to attend a month-long summer camp that focuses on developing self-esteem and social skills. To contribute, visit the Web site: brookejackmanfoundation.org