



03 LOCAL

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2007

amNY.com

33,000: FLORAL DECORATIONS THAT WILL GRACE CITY TAXI CABS LATER THIS YEAR

Flowery cabs honor 9/11 victims

By Kate Pastor
Special to amNewYork

A red bandana was the only thing Tania Head remembered about the man who rescued her from the 78th floor of the World Trade Center's south tower on 9/11. He wore it over his nose as he led her and 12 others down a stairwell to safety before he died.

Yesterday, in honor of that man, volunteer firefighter Welles Crowther, Head painted a red flower, one of an es-

**'EVEN IN THE FACE OF HARDSHIP,
THERE CAN BE BEAUTY'**

Melanie Stevenson, Garden in Transit project specialist

timated 33,000 floral decorations that by the end of the year will adorn the roofs, hoods and trunks of New York City yellow taxi cabs.

"Even in the face of hardship, there can be beauty," said Melanie Stevenson, a project specialist for Garden in Transit, a citywide public art project coinciding with

the 100th anniversary of metered taxi cabs.

The program was begun by Portraits of Hope, a community group that uses art to help the lives of children and adults coping with trauma.

Yesterday, the organization opened the doors of the Hotel Pennsylvania in midtown to World Trade Center

survivors — with each painting a flower representing a painful, but ultimately hopeful, story.

To Linda Gormley, who worked on Wall Street and witnessed the attack, the colorful flowers represent the idea that "we were wounded, but not defeated," she said.

While the post-9/11 outreach to survivors has tapered off, Gormley said yesterday's event made her feel that "people haven't forgotten about us."



Denise Coughlan of Bayside paints a decal memorializing her father, Martin, who died on 9/11.

(Jefferson Siegel)