

Arts

\$25,000 Raised by Artists Helps Sept. 11 Charities

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More than \$25,000 has been raised by more than 400 illustrators and other artists from around the world who have lent their work and donated money to a grass-roots exhibition to benefit three Sept. 11 charities.

The exhibition, entitled "Prevailing Human Spirit," closes today at the Society of Illustrators, 128 East 63rd Street. It was the brainchild of two society members, Wendy Popp and Rudy Gutierrez, who began organizing it shortly after the attacks.

"A lot of people were feeling similarly," said Ms. Popp, a painter who works with pastels. "We all wanted to help."

So the society began an e-mail and direct-mail campaign, asking fellow illustrators and other artists to exhibit a piece of work and to donate \$50. Soon after the e-mail went out, Ms. Popp, along with Terry Brown, the director of the society, and Mark Korsak, the exhibition administrator, found themselves besieged by donations of work. In addition to the \$50 donations from each artist, additional monies were raised through the sale of digital prints of the art.

The show, which is free, is open from noon until 4 P.M. After it closes, organizers hope to continue to sell digital prints of the exhibited art on the gallery's Web site: www.societyillustrators.org.

Six hundred artists offered work; in the end, the exhibition features the work of 407.

Among the artists represented are Peter deSeve, a Broadway poster artist; Milton Glaser, who devised the "I (heart sign) NY" campaign; and Tim O'Brien, who has done 25 Time magazine covers.

The pieces, which are numbered, range from traditional watercolors and pen-and-ink drawings to computer-generated images. The exhibition also includes a display of artifacts from Union Square in Manhattan, where dozens of makeshift shrines appeared in the days after Sept. 11.

The donations from the artists, as well as from those who have visited the show, have gone to three charities: The New York Times 9/11 Neediest Cases Fund, the Robin Hood Relief Fund and Windows of Hope Family Relief Fund.