



#### **Contacts**

Rafael Castellanos  
President  
Central Park Medical Unit  
212-268-4466

P.O. Rick Tombari  
Community Affairs  
Central Park Precinct  
212-570-4842

## **Central Park Medical Unit's Volunteers Honored by New York City Police Department for Saving Lives During August Blackout**

**New York, NY, December 4, 2003** – NYPD Captain Karin Azadian awarded certificates of heroism last evening at the YMCA on West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, to volunteer members of the Central Park Medical Unit for their live-saving efforts during the blackout on August 14<sup>th</sup>. In front of a crowd which included Chief Ray Diaz from the Patrol Borough Manhattan North as well as a representative from Commissioner Adrian Benepe's office, Captain Azadian recapped the valuable role the members of the Central Park Medical Unit provided within minutes of the blackout occurring.

At 4:11 p.m. both ambulances of the Central Park Medical Unit were fully staffed and responding to calls. With regular communication means such as land lines and cell phones not functioning, the unit's members responded promptly to the unit's pre-arranged emergency response HQ to begin tour. The ambulances were staffed and extra members were scheduled for later shifts. During the course of the first 24 hours of the blackout the ambulances responded to over 60 calls, some of which were ultimately found to be unfounded. The nature of calls ranged from regular medical and trauma calls to those which were directly related to the blackout. Central Park Medical Unit served mid- and upper-Manhattan for four consecutive days, beginning with the onset of the blackout on Thursday, August 14, with round-the-clock operations running until power had been restored in Manhattan.

#### **About Central Park Medical Unit**

The Central Park Medical Unit is an all-volunteer organization that has provided a safety net for millions of individuals who have visited Central Park over the past three decades. With the fastest response time in New York State, at just under three minutes, the Central Park Medical Unit is prepared to provide injured and sick park patrons expert medical care completely free of charge.

For more information regarding the Central Park Medical Unit, please contact Rafael Castellanos, 646-473-7578 or visit our website at [www.cpmu.com](http://www.cpmu.com)