Sandy:
The First 100 Days

OCTOBER 28, 2012

"I saw the water and I couldn't do anything. The refrigerator was swimming, the washing machine was swimming …" — Roy del Wright, Canarsie resident.

Middle Beach, Staten Island.
James Keivon, Daily News

Dubbed Sandy, although a super-storm when it arrived on the Jersey shore on October 28, wreaked unprecedented havoc unseen in the tri-state area for decades, leaving neighborhoods flooded, homes damaged, major sections without power , and lives marred not to mention producing an unforeseen shortage of gasoline for several weeks after in New York and New Jersey. As a result, the east coast was declared a disaster area by the federal government. Areas such as Staten Island, Coney Island, Rockaways, Sheepshead Bay, Red Hook, Canarsie were severely impacted. Many residents from these mentioned areas have not fully recovered from the storm to date.

NOVEMBER 16, 2012

First Response.

Volunteers preparing cleaning buckets at Holy family Church in Canarsie Brooklyn.

Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush staff and volunteers, in conjunction with the office of Sen. John Sampson, Holy Family Church, along with local civic groups banned together and provided buckets with cleaning supplies donated by Freddie Mac & Flushing Savings Bank to over 300 residents living in Canarsie. Space heaters were also to delivered to homes without heat.

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"The greatest challenge is that now Super Storm Sandy is out of the public eye and there are many families who are still suffering and we have a long way. People's needs will evolve but the impact will last a very long time" says Laura McKenna, Exec. Director, Bay Improvement Group.

January 16, 2013
Aid to the Bay

Tonya Ores standing with a member of the National Guard and Paul Curiale of the Millennium Group.

Not only did the storm displace and impact residents, many not profit groups were also disabled. NHS of East Flatbush along with the Millennium Group and the National coordinated efforts to distribute dehumidifiers, blankets, boots, toolkits and other supplies to residents and organizations in the Sheepshead Bay area

January 23, 2013

Tonya Ores(in blue) and Laura McKeena (in white), Director of the Bay Improvement Group (BIG) with residents of Sheepshead Bay

NHS shipped 100 dehumidifiers to the Bay Improvement Group (BIG) who then distributed them via a mobile unit on Emmonds Ave. to residents in need in the Sheepshead Bay. BIG has been serving the community for over 20 years. They reached out to over 250 families in the Bay area.

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February 4, 2013

A Gift from Chase

Rudy Chase(right), now a Community Outreach Coordinator for NHS of East Flatbush handing out sleeping bags to Canarsie residents hit by the storm. Father Cane of Holy Family Church in the background.

As a result of Sandy, NHS of East Flatbush recruited Rudy Chase, resident and Community Outreach Coordinator for Canarsie. Mr. Chase is a veteran from the Navy with a passion for community organizing. During the post-Sandy recovery, he and other spirited volunteers spearheaded efforts at Holy Family Church where they provided hot meals, clothes, health kits, Christmas toys and other supplies to residents in need. Rudy is also the liaison working with a Coalition of Canarsie community groups and the Borough president office, insuring Canarsie residents receive the resources they deserve.

A Coalition was Born

In the aftermath of Sandy, the Canarsie Recovery Coalition was formed. It is a collaborative effort formed by the Brooklyn Borough President's Office. The Coalition consists of NHS of East Flatbush, Millennium Development Corporation, Jewish Community Council of Canarsie, New York Cares, Rebuilding Together NYC, and a host of other Community Based partners. The goal of the Canarsie Recovery Coalition is to provide needed resources to the Canarsie community post Super Storm Sandy. Collectively, the Coalition will continue to canvass the community and identify the need.