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November 2, 2015

Rebuilding Together NYC November 2015 Newsletter

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Project Spotlight: Fall Rebuilding Day on Staten Island



On October 24, 2015, Rebuilding Together NYC hosted its Fall Rebuilding Day in commemoration of the 3rd anniversary of Hurricane Sandy on Staten Island. With the help of 150 volunteers, we repaired six homes, two community centers, and installed solar lights on the exterior of 50 homes in the Midland Beach and New Dorp communities.

Midland Beach and New Dorp are neighborhoods in Staten Island that were severely damaged by Hurricane Sandy. These communities faced 16-feet of peak storm tides that left many homes flooded and without gas and electricity. The recovery effort on Staten Island has been ongoing since Sandy hit. Three years later there are still significant repair needs to be met. Many homeowners continue to grapple with recurrent mold, unfinished repairs, and disputed insurance claims. With the help of local community members and partner organizations, Rebuilding Together NYC brought six homeowners and two community centers the repair assistance that they needed to recover.

With the help of our sponsors and volunteers, we installed new flooring, ceiling insulation, and drywall in several

homes; painted the interior and exterior of homes; repaired storm-damaged subfloors; removed debris that remained from the storm three years ago; landscaped and installed raised garden beds; and installed 50 solar exterior lights throughout the neighborhoods to improve community safety.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and partners on the Staten Island rebuilding projects including the American Red Cross, BernzOmatic, Cannon Design, Catholic Charities Community Services, Columbia Habitat for Humanity Club, Credit Suisse, Dyker Park Bagels, Focus Integrated Fitness, Freddie Mac, Jimmy John's Franchise LLC, New York State Homes and Community Renewal, Right Management, Saint Ann's School, Shawmut Design and Construction, Staten Island Alliance, Staten Island MakerSpace, Staten Island Youth Justice Center, Statewide Demolition Corp, Street Squash, TripleMint, Tzu Chi New York, and Yellow Boots.

To view photos from Fall Rebuilding Day, click [here](#).

To view a New York 1 News article on Fall Rebuilding Day, click [here](#).

Homeowner Spotlight: Nicholas M.



Nicholas M., an 84 year old Staten Island resident and retired Turner Construction employee, has lived in his Midland Beach home for nearly 40 years. His neighborhood was one of the hardest hit during Hurricane Sandy, which wiped out his basement and first floor. Three years post storm, Nicholas has completed all of the repairs on the first floor, but his basement was still in dangerous condition when RT NYC visited the home in September 2015. His electrical wiring had not been replaced and the ceiling and walls were untouched. Rebuilding Together NYC was able to replace the electrical work and, with the help of volunteers on Fall Rebuilding Day, replace insulation and sheetrock in the basement. Volunteers even found Nicholas' military "dog tags," which had gone missing many years ago. Nicholas was incredibly gracious and even [spoke kind words](#) about Rebuilding Together NYC to NY 1 News! Another homeowner with a safe and healthy home.

Program Update: Disaster Recovery Workforce Training Participants

Graduate!



The first cohort of our Disaster Recovery Workforce Training Program graduated on October 23rd. We were incredibly proud the participants joined us for our Fall Rebuilding Day on the 24th. They continued to expand their construction knowledge and installed drywall in the basement of a home on Staten Island. We were joined on-site by Lisa Bova-Hiatt, the Interim Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), and Alex Zablocki, the GOSR NYC Regional Lead, for a graduation ceremony. The participants received graduation packets with their OSHA-10 certificate, Home Builder Institute PACT certificate, program completion certificate, and their \$1,000 stipend.

The young men and women were eager to volunteer at Fall Rebuilding Day to utilize their new skills and gain additional rebuilding knowledge. When asked about the program, Darrel Mulbah said, “If you don’t know what this is *points to his Rebuilding Together NYC t-shirt* - look it up – your whole life will change!”

Check out S.R.T. 11’s graduation and volunteer efforts at our Fall Rebuilding Day on [Facebook](#).

Sponsor Spotlight: BernzOmatic



With the support of Rebuilding Together, Bernzomatic, the leader in handheld torches since 1876, has launched the #FindYourFire Community Grants program. Alongside superstar rehabilitation expert Nicole Curtis, the program invites participants from across the country to nominate a project that uses a blowtorch and will make a

difference in their communities. Ten finalists will be selected, and America will vote for their favorite project online. Three finalists with the most votes will receive \$10,000 and the Bernzomatic tools needed to bring their projects to life; and the submission with the most overall votes will be also be awarded a special visit from Curtis herself. The seven remaining finalists will each receive a \$1,500 grant and complimentary Bernzomatic products.

Rebuilding Together affiliates are encouraged to submit at bernzomatic.com/grants. The submission deadline to enter is December 7.

The program kicked off October 22 with Rebuilding Together NYC on Staten Island, NY in commemoration of the third anniversary of Hurricane Sandy. Work was completed at Staten Island MakerSpace – once a metal shop and now a nonprofit community workshop and co-working space for artists, makers, and hardware developers – that received a range of storm-related repairs and renovations.



Volunteer Spotlight: National Tax Lien Association



On October 8th, volunteers from the National Tax Lien Association (NTLA) came out to work in the basement of a Sandy-damaged home in Canarsie, Brooklyn. The volunteers were able to put a second coat of mud on all of the drywall seams in the entire basement. This work would not have been possible without their diligent efforts. The National Tax Lien Association is committed to the advancement of legislative, regulatory, business, public relations and educational interests of the tax lien industry in the United States. NTLA also shares the belief in keeping homeowners in their homes.

To view photos from National Tax Lien Association volunteer day, click [here!](#)

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, click [here](#).



Donor Spotlight: Congratulations to our Marathon Runners!



On November 1st, Pankin Bhagat, Christina Bechtold, Austin Chu, Brian Smith, and Peter Young completed the 2015 TCS New York City Marathon on behalf of Rebuilding Together NYC! Collectively, they raised over \$18,000 for RT NYC. Their accomplishments, both running 26.2 miles and raising funds to help others in need, are inspirational. We congratulate and thank our marathon runners for all of their hard work over the last few months. The money our marathon runners raised will allow Rebuilding Together NYC to provide more low-income New Yorkers with free critical repairs, modifications, and upgrades.

To view our runner profiles and make a donation, click [here](#).

In the News



On October 21st, Rebuilding Together NYC's Executive Director Kimberly George, Brooklyn District 47 Council Member and Chair of the City Council's Committee on Recovery and Resiliency Mark Treyger, and Sister Savone James Assistant Pastor of Coney Island Gospel Assembly, appeared on BKLive, hosted by Jarrett Murthy, about Hurricane Sandy efforts three years after the storm. The discussion was about the current state of repairs in Brooklyn, steps taken toward resiliency, and how our communities have changed as a result of the storm.

To watch a podcast of the live show, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events Calendar

- November 1, 2015 - TCS New York City Marathon

- November 2, 2015 - Workforce Training Program second cohort begins
- November 2 – 3, 2015 – Columbia Habitat for Humanity volunteer day
- November 14, 2015 – Hofstra Cares volunteer day
- March TBD, 2016 - Lowe's Rebuild-a-Block
- **April 30, 2016 - National Rebuilding Day**
- **May 12, 2106 - Rebuilding Together NYC Annual Gala**

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