



September 1, 2015

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Rebuilding Together NYC September 2015 Newsletter

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Project Spotlight: Midland, Staten Island



Back of the House



Dining Room

Charles and Dee's modest two-story house is still being rebuilt three years after Hurricane Sandy tore through their neighborhood on Staten Island. The storm sent the Atlantic crashing across hundreds of yards of marshland to their doorstep the night of Oct. 29, 2012, smashing their first floor windows and filling the rooms with seven feet of seawater.

The family purchased their home in 1983 and, unfortunately, also sustained damages during Hurricane Irene. However, upon filing a claim with FEMA, they received only \$800. The couple was informed that they needed to purchase flood insurance, but they could not afford the monthly expense. Therefore, when Hurricane Sandy flooded their home, they were considered non-compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program and were unable to receive any federal funding. Once the deluge receded, the 68-year-old retirees were left facing tens of

thousands of dollars in repairs and appliance replacements with little means to pay for it all. Charles and Dee were able to make the most basic repairs to their home with the help of volunteers active in the rebuild immediately following Sandy, but a tremendous amount of work remains.

The couple struggles with a variety of health issues. Charles suffers from daily seizures and a bone disease. Dee also has health problems and is fortunately able to receive disability insurance. With your support, Rebuilding Together NYC can help Charles and Dee put the storm behind them and move forward in a safe and healthy home. Together, we can make a difference.

[Donate](#) today to help Charles and Dee!

Homeowner Spotlight: Yvonne H.



Yvonne H. is a loving mother and grandmother who lives in Canarsie, Brooklyn. Prior to Sandy, she lived in the home with her husband and worked as a corrections officer on Rikers Island. Just before the storm, however, Yvonne's husband passed away. Shortly after the storm, she lost her job while defending the rights of an inmate. Despite these challenges, coupled by severe damages to her home brought on by Hurricane Sandy, Yvonne remains incredibly strong and hopeful.

To ensure a safe and healthy environment for Yvonne and her growing family, Rebuilding Together NYC will provide critical repairs to the home, including repairing the landing and steps to the main patio entrance, providing complete electrical, plumbing, and finishing repairs to the basement and kitchen, replacing several windows, re-installing her toilet, and fixing her bedroom ceiling. All we ask is that Yvonne keeps smiling.

To view our application for free home repairs, click [here](#).

Volunteer Spotlight: Hofstra University



Hofstra University students have been volunteering with Rebuilding Together NYC for a year now, assisting the rebuild efforts for homeowners impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Most recently, 19 Hofstra volunteers traveled out to Canarsie, Brooklyn to help repair a home that took several feet of water when Sandy hit. One of the volunteers, Zach, says that his “expectations for Rebuilding Together NYC was to take part in some form of construction, but not that we would be given so much valuable life information.” Although many of the volunteers did not have prior construction experience, they quickly learned from staff everything they needed to know and had a productive day.

The Hofstra volunteers, along with RT NYC staff, cleared the home’s basement of debris, tore down damaged drywall that still remained, and put in new drywall on the ceiling. “At the end of the day, the entire group was really satisfied with the change we made in the short time we were there” explains Zach. “I would definitely volunteer again and recommend that others join me, even if they aren’t too experienced!”

To view photos from Hofstra’s volunteer day, click [here](#)!

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

Announcement RT NYC is now a Licensed HBI PACT Program Provider!

Rebuilding Together NYC is proud to announce that we are now a licensed HBI (Home Builder’s Institute) PACT (Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training) Program Provider. HBI PACT Programs are nationally acclaimed programs that are implemented at the local level. They can be customized to fit the needs of local communities nationwide and abroad. The PACT curriculum is one of only three U.S. Department of Labor-recognized pre-apprenticeship curricula. . Rebuilding Together NYC’s participants graduating from this program will enter the job market with nationally recognized pre-apprenticeship credentials.



To apply for the Disaster Recovery Workforce Training Program, download the application [here](#) or call (718) 488-8840.

Project Announcement: Free Solar Lights for Staten Island Homeowners!



On Saturday, October 24th, Rebuilding Together NYC will install 50 motion-activated security lights on Staten Island, New York with the help of volunteers and sponsors on Fall Rebuilding Day. To qualify for this free service, you must own your home in the Midland Beach area of Staten Island and be present during the installation on October 24th.

For Staten Island homeowner applications to receive a free solar light, please click [here](#) or please contact us at (718) 488-8840 or info@rebuildingtogethernyc.org.

Building Partnerships on Staten Island

As part of Rebuilding Together NYC's fall rebuilding efforts, we are partnering with local nonprofits, community based organizations, and disaster case managers on Staten Island to identify residents and community spaces still in need of storm-related repairs. We are excited to be in conversation with groups such as the Olympia Activity Center, [Staten Island Alliance](#), [Yellow Boots](#), [Catholic Charities Community Services](#), and [New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church](#), all of which are working tirelessly to get residents back in their homes nearly three years after Hurricane Sandy. We look forward to supporting their work and contributing to the rebuild efforts on Staten Island in the coming months.

Staff Update: RT NYC Welcomes 5 New Team Members

We are happy to welcome 5 new staff members to the Rebuilding Together NYC team. We look forward to working with them in the months to come and wish them luck.

Workforce Trainer: Ian Potter

Ian Potter joined the Rebuilding Together NYC team in September of 2015 as the Disaster Recovery Workforce Training Instructor. Originally from Pennsylvania, he graduated from West Chester University with a B.A in Theatre Arts and a minor in Studio Arts. After college Ian served for five years as the Technical Director, Scenic Designer and Painter, and Theatre Teacher for Gamut Theatre Group/Harrisburg Shakespeare Company in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Ian looks forward to using his love of teaching, construction, and artful living to help revitalize and strengthen the web of communities that tie the great city of New York together. He also wants to give a big thank you to his Dad for always getting him involved with Do-It-Yourself projects growing up.



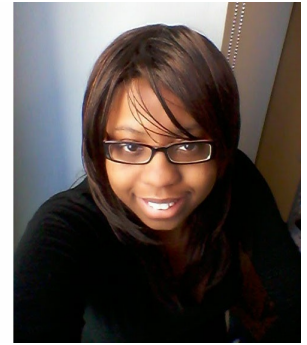


Program Coordinator: Laura Christensen-García

Laura Christensen-García currently serves Rebuilding Together NYC as the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator. She recently received her BA in Political Science from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. Through her position in the Annual Giving Office at Lewis & Clark, Laura worked on alumni outreach, the senior giving campaign, and direct mail campaigns. Laura's main focus within Political Science is on criminal justice reform issues and mass incarceration. She hopes to continue this research in her professional life. Laura is really excited to be joining the team at Rebuilding Together NYC and is looking forward to working on neighborhood revitalization.

Client Services Coordinator: Annisia Perry

Asea Thompson is currently serving as an AmeriCorps Project Coordinator with Rebuilding Together NYC. She received her BFA in Interior Design from Valdosta State University and her MRP in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University. Asea initially planned to design interiors for affordable housing and was pulled into the world of Creative Placemaking in the process. She is completing her graduate thesis which focuses on the impact the arts can have on a declining community. Asea looks forward to exploring the intersection of art, design, and community development during her term at Rebuilding Together NYC.



Project Coordinator: Asea Thompson



Asea Thompson is currently serving as an AmeriCorps Project Coordinator with Rebuilding Together NYC. She received her BFA in Interior Design from Valdosta State University and her MRP in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University. Asea initially planned to design interiors for affordable housing and was pulled into the world of Creative Placemaking in the process. She is completing her graduate thesis which focuses on the impact the arts can have on a declining community. Asea looks forward to embarking in on the world of art, design, and community development during her term at RT NYC.

Volunteer Coordinator: Katie Tote

Katie Tote is currently serving as the AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator. She recently moved to New York City from the foothills of the Adirondacks to pursue a MPH focusing on behavioral health and epidemiology. She received a B.A. in Sociology and Ethics and Social Policy from SUNY Plattsburgh with an emphasis on environmental justice and food policy. At Rebuilding Together NYC, she hopes to utilize her skills in community health education and volunteer management to increase general knowledge about healthy housing and environmental health issues throughout our city, one homeowner and one volunteer project at a time.



To read more about the rest of our staff members, click [here](#).

Marathon Runner Spotlight: Travis Renville



We are proud to announce that Travis Renville will be running the TCS New York City Marathon on behalf of Rebuilding Together NYC for the third year in a row! We are so excited to have Travis on our team again this year!

Travis is passionate about helping those in need and has seen firsthand the difference Rebuilding Together NYC makes in the lives of low-income New Yorkers. The money our marathon runners raise will support our organization's efforts to provide low-income homeowners and nonprofit centers with free critical repairs, modifications, and upgrades.

To donate to Travis' Crowdrise page, click [here](#).

Are you interested in running in the 2015 TCS New York City Marathon? To learn more about our marathon spots, click [here](#). The deadline to signup is September 8th!

Upcoming Events Calendar

- September TBD, 2015 - FEMA Corps volunteer day
- September 14, 2015 - Workforce Training Program
- September 19, 2015 - FEMA volunteer day
- September 21 to 25, 2015 - SSBx volunteer week
- October 12, 2015 - Architecture for Humanity New York (AFHny) volunteer day
- October 16, 2015 - Credit Suisse volunteer day
- October 22 and 23, 2015 - Bernzomatic volunteer day
- October 24, 2015 - Fall Rebuilding Day
- November 1, 2015 - TCS New York City Marathon
- March TBD, 2016 - Lowe's Rebuild-a-Block



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