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Event Day Highlight: Light It Up



Through our Light it Up program, we install free solar-powered, motion-sensor safety lights on the exterior of homes. These solar light fixtures help increase safety by lighting up dark streets one house at a time.

On July 26th we held a Light it Up program in Gerritsen Beach, a community devastated by Hurricane Sandy nearly two years ago, and installed 45 security lights with the help of volunteers from [Bike & Build](#). Bike & Build is an organization that raises money for and awareness of affordable housing efforts. They cycle across the country volunteering with different rebuilding and housing organizations.

During this round of Light It Up, we were lucky enough to have a representative, Colin Sarafin, from MAXSA, the company that manufactures the lights. This was his first time visiting one of Rebuilding Together NYC's event days. He was able to meet homeowners, help the volunteers, and really see the impact we have in these communities. According to Colin, "It's one thing to see photos and another to be there and be a part of it. What Rebuilding Together NYC does is incredible. Hearing Doreen's account of Sandy's impact on Gerritsen Beach was incredible moving. I'm honored that we can be a small part of your efforts to heal their community and all the others."

Announcement: New Board Member



We are happy to announce the appointment of Michelle Cooper to the Board of Directors of Rebuilding Together NYC. As a Program Manager for the Capital Project Management team at Columbia University Medical Center, Michelle manages planning efforts for CUMC's Revitalization Initiative which includes a new medical education center, a new School of Nursing building, and a major renovation of a 600 person auditorium amongst other major capital projects. We are honored to add her construction and real estate management experience to our team!

See our full Board of Directors list [here](#).

Volunteer Spotlight: Loretta Tapia

Loretta is a native New Yorker who shares the Rebuilding Together vision of a safe and healthy home for every person. She is graduate of [Nontraditional Employment for Women \(NEW\)](#), a workforce development organization that prepares women for careers in the construction, transportation, energy, and facilities maintenance industries.

She first volunteered with Rebuilding Together NYC in March 2014 when she began training for the Project Assistant position for National Rebuilding Day in Canarsie. Since then, she has volunteered over 100 hours to help rebuild Sandy-damaged homes with Rebuilding Together NYC. She says she volunteers because "All New Yorkers are my neighbors...giving my time is the right thing to do."



Marathon Runner Spotlight: Bram Lowsky



Bram Lowsky is one of the runners on Rebuilding Together NYC's 2014 TCS New York City marathon team. We asked Bram why he decided to get involved and this is what he said: "As the Americas leader for Right Management, I have a great fondness for New York City and its people. The people of Right Management's NY Office are part of a community that cares about their fellow residents and they look for every opportunity to give back. So I can't think of a better way to contribute to this great community than by supporting Rebuilding Together NYC. Your financial support for this great organization is the best motivation I can have to ensure that I cross the finish line knowing that Rebuilding Together NYC is in an even stronger position to help more of those so desperately in need, particularly the elderly, disabled, families with children and veterans."

[Click here to donate and hear more of Bram's story](#)

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