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Rebuilding Together NYC July 2015 Newsletter

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Project Spotlight: Red Hook Neighborhood Revitalization Project



On Thursday, June 11th, Rebuilding Together NYC partnered with 115 volunteers from Forest City Ratner Companies (FCRC) for their annual Community Day of Service. In collaboration with local community partners including Red Hook Initiative, Good Shepherd Services, and the Flourishing Preschool, Rebuilding Together NYC and FCRC volunteers helped revitalize Red Hook, Brooklyn, a community that was seriously damaged during Hurricane Sandy.

With the help of FCRC volunteers, we were able to:

- Provide painting and landscaping renovations to the Miccio Community Center,
- Paint and install organizational shelves at Red Hook Initiative,
- Build raised garden beds for students at the Flourishing Preschool,
- Paint fire hydrants throughout the neighborhood, and
- Install motion-activated security lights on the exterior of homes.

When asked why the Community Day of Service is such an important event, Forest City Ratner Companies Executive Chairman Bruce Ratner said, "We are so excited to join with local community organizations to enhance the storied Red Hook neighborhood. Forest City Ratner Companies is not only in the business of creating new dynamic neighborhood destinations, we are committed to supporting and amplifying the existing city fabric by making important investments in local communities."

To read press coverage surrounding the event, click [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)!

Homeowner Spotlight: Michael and Maria G.



Michael and Maria G. are both deaf-mute Greek immigrants that have lived in their Queens home for over 30 years. In 2006, Michael suffered from a debilitating stroke that left him paralyzed on his right side and wheelchair-bound. Michael also suffers from language aphasia, leaving him unable to communicate via sign-language or other means. As a result of his injury, Michael cannot eat normally or walk, and requires 24-hour care. With the help of Rebuilding Together NYC, Michael and Maria now have a chair lift and a renovated bathroom that will give Michael some added independence. When asked about how important these repairs are to her parents, their daughter Kelly said, "It is a blessing to see my parents getting the help they need after so many years. This is their home, and it has been the only constant in their lives amidst all this change over the years. My parents don't want to leave their home and now, they don't have to."

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

Volunteer Spotlight: Dan Faris



Dan is an AmeriCorps member serving with Rebuilding Together Philadelphia. This is Dan's third AmeriCorps term; he had previously served as a House Captain with Rebuilding Together New Orleans and a Team Leader with the first FEMA Corps class. During his FEMA Corps service term, Dan was deployed to New York City for three days after Hurricane Sandy. Dan's FEMA Corps team worked in Staten Island and Brooklyn for 5 months. Dan was excited to come back to New York City and volunteer with Rebuilding Together NYC in June. Dan had the opportunity to see how NYC has recovered following Hurricane Sandy, specifically in the Rockaway, Queens. Dan had a great time seeing his fellow AmeriCorps members again and enjoyed meeting all of the RT NYC staff members. Even though Dan was only in New York City for a few days, he immediately made himself part of the team and helped us organize and lead some important projects. While reflecting on his time at RT NYC, Dan

said: "Even though I'm from South Jersey and am an avid Philadelphia fan, I will always have fond memories of volunteering in New York City and hope to be able to work with Rebuilding Together NYC again in the future."

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

Workforce Training Program

We are excited to announce that Rebuilding Together NYC has been awarded \$250,000 from the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) to spearhead the creation of a Disaster Recovery Workforce Training Pilot Program. The program, which will primarily take place in Southern Brooklyn and Staten Island, will provide on-site construction training for low to very low income New Yorkers, while contributing to the long-term resiliency of the State. As part of their training, participants will repurpose the waste

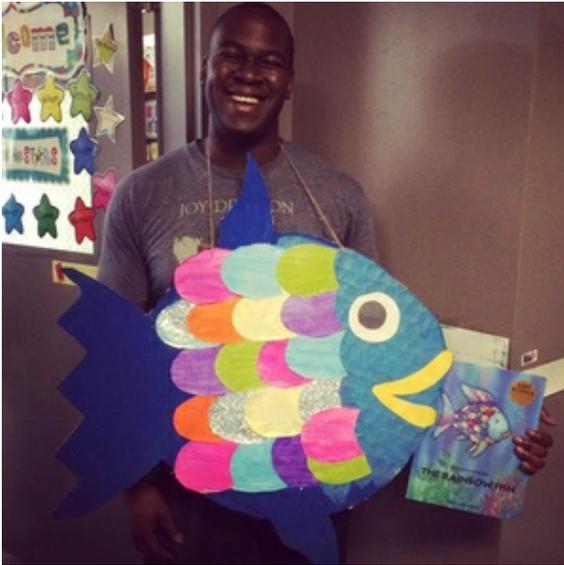


stream from homes on State Island slated for demolition as part of the NY Rising Buyout Program. "Rebuilding Together NYC is excited to pilot the Disaster Recovery Workforce Training program with GOSR," said Executive Director Kimberly George. "Not only will we be providing training in skills that employers seek, we will be repurposing the waste stream from Staten Island's bought-out homes in the process. It's a unique approach to addressing economic and environmental sustainability in the same effort."

To view a press release publicizing this program, click [here](#).

To see press coverage surrounding the program, read [here](#) and watch [here](#).

Staff Update: New SummerCorps Members



We are pleased to introduce Abdul Amunikero:

Abdul is currently working as a teacher's assistant in New York City. When he begins his SummerCorps term, he will work alongside the construction department as Project Coordinator at Rebuilding Together NYC. This will be Abdul's second year serving with AmeriCorps. After graduating college, Abdul served as a Corps Member for City Year New York working with 4th graders in East Harlem. Abdul's hobbies include running, reading, solving anagrams, and cooking.

We are pleased to introduce Rochelle Pacheco:

Rochelle is joining Rebuilding Together NYC as Volunteer Coordinator. One of Rochelle's greatest passions is helping people. As an aspiring Physician Assistant, Rochelle hopes to one day make a huge difference in the medical field. Rochelle is currently completing a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology at Brooklyn College. Living in New York City has given Rochelle the chance to see the best of times as well as the worst. From living through 9/11 to getting her EMT-B license, Rochelle has grown to believe that she is destined to help and serve her community in the future. Like any New Yorker, Rochelle is a silly person with a tough exterior. The tough exterior, however, does not keep her from being passionate about life's treasures. This includes having a blast with friends or enjoying the beautiful scenery at a local Art Museum.



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

Event Spotlight: AmeriCorps Service Project Fundraiser

On Saturday, June 6th, the AmeriCorps members of Rebuilding Together NYC hosted a happy hour event to support the home repairs of Butler D. We are happy to announce that the event raised \$1,850. In total, the AmeriCorps members have raised \$5,521 which will go directly toward Butler's accessibility modifications. On behalf of the Rebuilding Together NYC staff, we would like to thank everyone that attended this event and made it a successful evening. With your support, Butler D. is one step closer to living in a safe and healthy home!



To view photos from this event, click [here!](#)

2015 Golf Tournament

Rebuilding Together NYC's 5th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, July 16 at the Brynwood Golf and Country Club in Armonk, NY. This year, in addition to 18 holes of golf, we are offering a sports and leisure package for the non-golfer. All proceeds will go to help improve the lives and homes of low-income New Yorkers.

Gather your friends, family, and coworkers for a fun day of golf! Awards will be given for the tournament winners, longest drive, closest to the pin, and best hole-in-one. Not much of a golfer but still want to support RT NYC and have a day of fun? Join us for swimming, yoga, tennis, volleyball, music, games and much more.



For more information on the Golf Tournament, click [here!](#)

2015 TCS New York City Marathon Entries Available



Calling all runners - Rebuilding Together NYC has a few charity runner spots available for guaranteed entry into this year's marathon! The premier event of the New York Road Runners, the TCS New York City Marathon is one of the world's great road races, drawing more than 10,000 applicants annually. This year, the 26.2 mile race will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2015.

Are you interested in running in the TCS New York City Marathon? To learn more about our marathon spots, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events Calendar

- July 6, 2015 - SummerCorps service term begins
- July 15, 2015 - DTCC volunteer day
- July 16, 2015 - 5th Annual Golf Tournament
- July 21, 2015 - BuildOn! volunteer day
- August 28, 2015 - CapacityCorp service term begins
- September 8, 2015 - Credit Suisse volunteer day
- October 24, 2015 - Fall Rebuilding Day

- November 1, 2015 - TCS New York City Marathon
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