

# SUPERSTORM SANDY

NINE-MONTH UPDATE | JULY 2013



**American  
Red Cross**

The American Red Cross is working every day to help more people affected by Superstorm Sandy in New York, New Jersey and other states. Trained Red Cross workers are meeting one-on-one with families to get them financial assistance to help with security and utility deposits, home repairs and rent, as well as linking them to available social service programs.

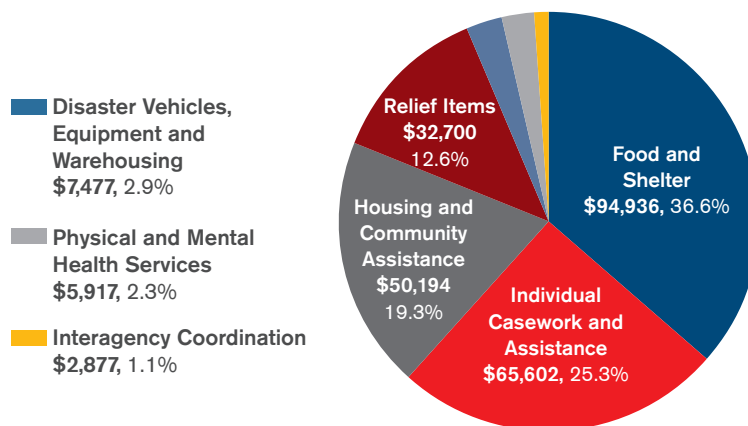
In addition, the Red Cross has given grants to a number of nonprofits working in New Jersey and New York to help people with home repairs, mold remediation, food and financial assistance, and to support the work of community roundtables that will help ensure that Sandy needs are met.

The Red Cross has received \$307 million for our Sandy emergency relief and recovery efforts, which is our largest response in more than five years. As of mid-July, we have spent or committed \$260 million—85 percent of the donated funds.

The Red Cross is committed to using funds donated for Sandy to help the individuals and communities affected by the superstorm.

We expect to use the biggest share of the remaining money for our Move-In Assistance Program to help people with a range of housing-related expenses, including rent, rebuilding, repairs, temporary housing, storage and moving costs, appliances and furniture. In addition, we intend to support community resiliency programs and give more grants to nonprofit partners to help Sandy survivors.

## Red Cross Superstorm Sandy Expenses and Commitments\*\* Through July 15, 2013 – \$260M (in thousands)



\*An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

†These expenses include both direct services and support to other agencies.

### Food and Shelter

The Red Cross opens shelters to ensure people have a safe place to stay before, during and after the storm. The Red Cross serves meals at shelters, as well as from emergency response vehicles moving through neighborhoods and fixed feeding sites in affected communities. This includes donations to food banks.

### Individual Casework and Assistance

Caseworkers from the Red Cross and other agencies meet with individuals affected by disaster to offer assistance, identify special needs and help them plan their long-term recovery. Assistance can include groceries, clothing, furniture, move-in assistance, security deposits, lodging and other aid to help a family get back on its feet.

### Housing and Community Assistance

The Red Cross provides assistance to meet housing needs for those whose homes were most seriously damaged by the disaster. This includes assistance for items such as repairs and rebuilding, mold removal, appliances, and volunteer housing.

### Relief Items

The Red Cross distributes a range of relief items, including comfort kits with hygiene items like toothbrushes and toothpaste, cleaning supplies, flashlights, batteries, trash bags, cold-weather essentials (gloves, blankets, hand-warmers) and shovels.

### Disaster Vehicles, Equipment and Warehousing

Red Cross workers drive through neighborhoods to distribute water, food and relief supplies in more than 300 feeding trucks as well as rental cars, trucks and other vehicles. This also includes costs associated with warehousing, fleet management, fuel and other necessities.

### Physical and Mental Health Services

The Red Cross provides physical and emotional support services to clients, which has included first aid and replacement of prescription medicines.

### Interagency Coordination

The Red Cross is providing funding to National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and other agencies that work to coordinate recovery efforts.

## Stories of Rebuilding and Recovery

Superstorm Sandy damaged homes, destroyed possessions and disrupted the lives of many people. The Red Cross provided several months of emergency relief to individuals and families after the storm, and continues to be there to help people recover and rebuild their lives. Highlighted here are two of the families who have been helped, thanks to donations to the Red Cross.

### Grant to Friends of Rockaway Helps Rebuild Homes

Donations to the American Red Cross are helping Felix Lyons prepare his home for an addition to the family, as his wife, Lintia, is due to give birth to the couple's fourth child in late August. But getting the Lyons' home ready is more complicated than having a baby shower, buying a crib and decorating a room. The family's house in Far Rockaway in New York was ravaged by Superstorm Sandy, and the home's drywall, ceilings and floors had to be removed. Since the storm, the family has been living in a small two-bedroom apartment nearby.

A grant from the Red Cross to a grassroots organization known as Friends of Rockaway will help Felix, his family and almost 100 other families get back into their homes.

"There's hope for us, and the kids will be happy of course," Lyons said. "It means that we'll have a hot meal on the table again, and there'll be hope in terms of getting a shelter back."

Friends of Rockaway, an affiliate of St. Bernard's Project, will use the Red Cross grant to hire local, skilled labor—plumbers, electricians, carpenters and others—for a year to help rebuild 90 homes in the Rockaway Peninsula. The grant will allow low- to moderately low-income homeowners in hard-hit areas to restore their homes to livable conditions.

"We're excited to be working with the American Red Cross to rebuild our community," said Michael Sinensky, Friends of Rockaway founder. "It is further proof of the Red Cross commitment to not only relief efforts, but rebuilding and resiliency. The Rockaways are forever grateful for their generosity and hard work."

### Mother and Daughter Find the Right Home, Just in Time

When Sandy tore through Sayreville, New Jersey, the flood waters forced Christy Kenny and her pregnant daughter from their apartment and destroyed most of their possessions.

The Kennys entered the FEMA Transitional Sheltering Assistance program and were placed in a hotel in Edison, New Jersey. When the TSA program ended in April, the Kennys were still searching for a permanent housing solution and contacted the Red Cross for help.

Through the Red Cross Move-In Assistance Program, the Red Cross provided financial assistance needed to extend the Kennys' stay at the hotel, while their caseworker also helped them search for a new apartment. This apartment hunt became an urgent priority, as Christy has brain cancer and the crucial chemotherapy treatment she needed was delayed as long as she was living at the hotel.

**"Working with the  
Red Cross was like  
working with family."**

—Christy Kenny

Working in partnership with Catholic Charities and the Long-Term Recovery Committee of Middlesex County, the Red Cross caseworker found a first-floor apartment with easy access for Christy, who will be wheelchair bound after her treatment. The apartment has a large backyard for her dogs and is in her hometown of Sayreville, close to the hospital.

The Red Cross work for the family continued, and included providing the apartment application fee, security deposit and animal fee, enabling Christy to move back to Sayreville and help her on her way to recovery.



Felix Lyons (center) at his Sandy-damaged home with Michael Sinensky (left), Friends of Rockaway founder, and Josh Lockwood (right), American Red Cross Greater New York Region CEO.