



**American
Red Cross**

Superstorm Sandy

Five-Year Update | October 2017

Massive Red Cross Response Brings Relief in Wake of Historic Storm

Five years ago, the center of 900-mile-wide Superstorm Sandy came ashore near Atlantic City, New Jersey, having already pummeled Puerto Rico and much of the East Coast. The massive storm especially battered communities across hard-hit New Jersey and New York, paralyzing the nation's largest city with unprecedented flooding.

Sandy's winds, rains and storm surge—as well as snowstorms inland—re-shaped coastlines and caused devastating losses. In the U.S., 117 people lost their lives, including 53 in New York and 34 in New Jersey, while hundreds of thousands of people were forced from their homes. Storm damage left 8.5 million people without power across 11 states and sparked a massive fire in Queens, New York, that leveled more than 100 homes.

In the storm's wake, survivors looked to the Red Cross for help and hope in their darkest hours.

In response, more than 17,000 American Red Cross volunteers and employees mobilized to bring relief, opening shelters and feeding sites that ultimately provided more than 74,000 overnight stays for people forced from their homes and served over 17.5 million meals and snacks. More than 300 emergency response vehicles navigated blocked roads, closed bridges and tunnels, and gas shortages as they worked to bring relief throughout the region, providing food, blankets, health care, emotional support and over 7 million sorely needed relief supplies like cleanup and comfort kits.

Red Cross Helps Superstorm Sandy Survivors Meet Recovery Need

After the immediate needs of the response receded, the Red Cross supported hard-hit families through the long and often complex recovery process, working with local governments and other nonprofits to assure that Red Cross assistance was going where it was needed most.

In the years following the storm, Red Cross caseworkers and volunteers worked hand-in-hand with nonprofit and local government partners to meet ongoing challenges—working one-on-one with families to help them plan their next steps and access available resources to meet their specific needs through direct assistance, as well as partner referrals.

The Red Cross Move-In Assistance Program provided case management and referrals, and also assisted families with rent, rebuilding, repairs, temporary housing, storage and moving costs, appliances and furniture. For thousands of households with uninsured expenses, the program served as a vital bridge to relocate people from hotels to sustainable housing or complete repairs on their Sandy-damaged homes.

A recovery effort of this scale is larger than any one organization. Since Sandy struck, the Red Cross has also awarded grants to dozens of nonprofits with specialized expertise and strong local ties. These grants supported a network of skilled, community-based services that could

Above: When Alan and Shaquana Watson's apartment was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy, the family had to move in with Shaquana's mother. Help from the Red Cross Move-In Assistance Program enabled the family to rent a new apartment in Far Rockaway, New York. Photo: Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

best meet Sandy survivors' needs for food, housing, financial help, mental health support and guidance.

The Red Cross funded food banks in New York and New Jersey communities, helping feed families facing ongoing hardship due to Sandy's impact. We provided grants to non-profit partners like Mennonite Disaster Services and Rebuilding Together to support home repair and rebuilding efforts in New York, New Jersey and other impacted states. The Red Cross also committed \$10 million to a New Jersey program that has helped low-to-moderate income families with rebuilding costs that weren't covered by federal reconstruction grants.

Additionally, the Red Cross provided more than \$14 million to unmet needs roundtables and long-term recovery groups in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to support some of the most complex individual and family recovery needs. This assistance has continued to aid people like Roland Beltran, 75, who lives on Staten Island with his son, Roland Beltran Jr., a 52-year-old veteran.

The Beltrons' home was flooded with eight feet of water during Sandy—destroying the first floor and many of their belongings. For the last four years, the two men used all their money from flood insurance and FEMA to make basic repairs. "The last...almost five years of my recovery, it's been a real roller coaster ride," Beltran, Sr., said.

Thanks to final funding from the American Red Cross, the New York Disaster Interfaith Services' (NYDIS) NYC



Representatives of the American Red Cross Greater New York Region and the New York Disaster Interfaith Services present Staten Island resident Roland Beltran, Sr., with a check to complete home repairs and pay off Sandy-related debts. Photo: ChiKong Lui/American Red Cross

Sandy Unmet Needs Roundtable provided the Beltrons with financial assistance to complete the flooring in their home, as well as to pay off the family's Sandy-related debt. "I would not have been able to function without assistance from NYDIS, the Red Cross," Beltran, Sr., added. "I just can't begin to thank everyone. It's an emotional time for me."

Thank you!

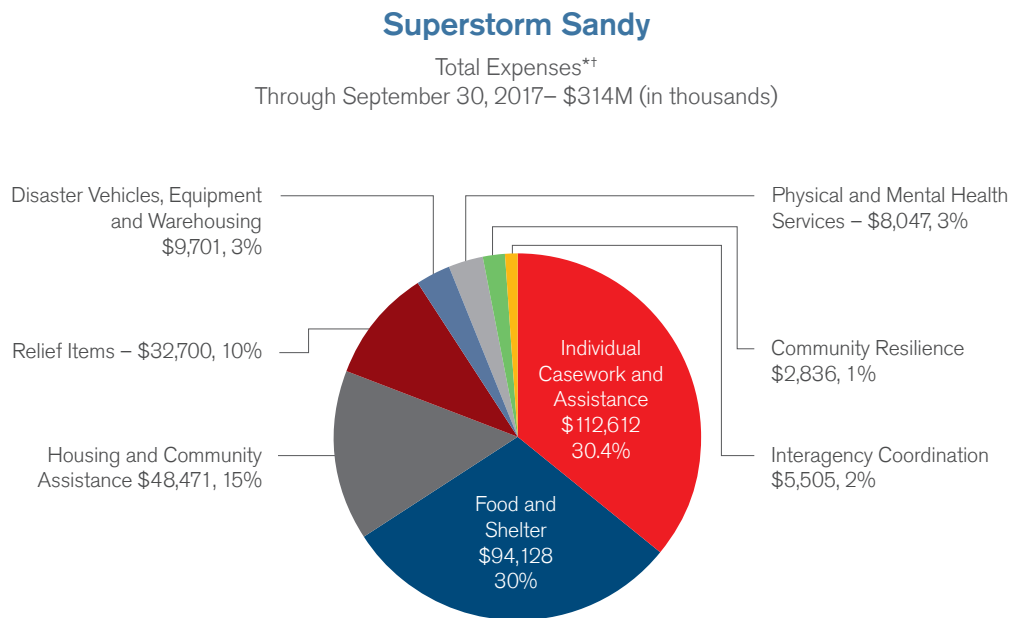
We are grateful for contributions from donors who responded with compassion to the devastation caused by Sandy; our partner nonprofits that work alongside us in the best interests of those in need; and our team of dedicated volunteers and staff who translate plans and resources into action.

We also appreciate our faithful corporate partners—Annual Disaster Giving Program and Disaster Responder members—and individuals who support disaster relief. Their generosity helped us respond even before Sandy made landfall. It also ensures we can prepare for, respond to and recover from tomorrow's disasters, both those that affect millions and those that affect a single family or community.

Thank you. You have made, and continue to make, a difference in countless lives.

Generous Donors Enable the Red Cross Response

Thanks to an outpouring of support from generous donors, the Red Cross raised \$312 million to help people impacted by Superstorm Sandy. As of October 20, 2017, the Red Cross has spent \$314 million to support Sandy emergency relief and recovery programs that have helped meet the needs of affected individuals, families and communities.



*These costs include the logistics, staff and technology expenses that make our services possible. 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 opened shelters to ensure people had a safe place to stay before, during and after the storm. The Red Cross served meals at shelters, as well as from emergency response vehicles moving through neighborhoods and fixed feeding sites in affected communities. This included donations to food banks.

Individual Casework and Assistance

Caseworkers from the Red Cross and other agencies met with individuals affected by disaster to offer assistance, identify special needs and help them plan their long-term recovery. Assistance included 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 provided assistance to meet housing needs for those whose homes were most seriously damaged by the disaster. This included assistance for items such as repairs and rebuilding, mold removal, appliances and volunteer housing.

Relief Items

The Red Cross distributed 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 drove 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 included costs associated with warehousing, fleet management, fuel and other necessities.

Physical and Mental Health Services

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

Interagency Coordination

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

Community Resilience

The Red Cross helped improve the ability of disaster-impacted communities to respond to future emergencies by purchasing and pre-positioning relief supplies, convening partner organizations and conducting planning and training exercises.