

June 2013

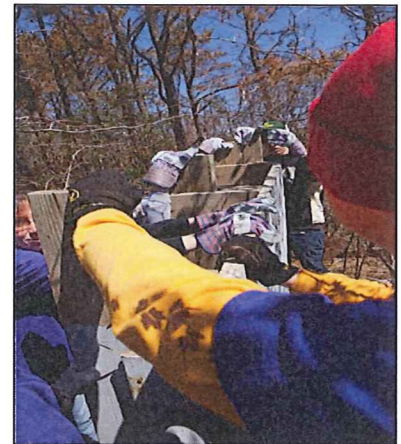
Dear Friends,

A little over seven months ago, Super Storm Sandy hit portions of the East Coast, with New Jersey severely impacted. The storm destroyed homes and businesses, and restoration will take some time, yet signs of hope appear all around us. One such sign is the number of people who have come forward to send financial and in-kind gifts, and volunteer their skills. Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSM/NJ) has received gifts from over 120 individuals and congregations. Your donations have gone to impacted communities and congregations throughout the state. Volunteers have poured in from across the country and will continue to support the rebuilding effort. For all these gifts we are truly grateful.

With staff members devoting 100 percent of their time to Sandy recovery, LSM/NJ has been assisting in the creation of long-term recovery structures that will be vital as we move forward in rebuilding.

To date:

- We have been actively engaged in long-term recovery efforts in Monmouth, Ocean, and Hudson counties, as well as in the Rahway area. We continue to pursue other NJ communities where we can be of assistance;
- LSM/NJ has given over 30 unmet needs grants to households who suffered storm damage;
- We have placed over 450 volunteers with over 2000 volunteer hours;
- We have received funding to support four Camp Noah programs for children struggling with emotional issues related to the storm;
- We have also received grant funding to hire additional staff for long-term recovery committees;
- LSM/NJ worked with Helping Hands Day, a partnership of the Southeast Pennsylvania and New Jersey synods of the ELCA, to place 300 youth in volunteer clean-up projects;
- We continue to work with congregations interested in becoming volunteer host sites, and expect to have our first site up and running in early July.



Helping Hands Day 2013

We are able to provide resources and expertise to help in the rebuilding effort, because many hands have come together to make the task easier. Thank for your support of LSM/NJ's Lutheran Disaster Response. Together we can lend a hand and make a difference.

Please continue to visit the LSM/NJ website [www.lsmnj.org](http://www.lsmnj.org) for updates on the Sandy Relief effort as well as other programs. We continue to accept tax deductible donations for LDR/Sandy Relief, by check to the address below or credit card by visiting the website.

Warmest Blessings,

Beth Gebhart

Executive Director of Fund Development  
& LSM/NJ Foundation

To opt out of LSM/NJ correspondence call 609-699-4115 or visit the website.

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