HURRICANE SANDY

On Monday Awilda Morton got a call from the Department of Homeless Services. “They asked if we could get a 100 bed shelter up in the armory gym—by Tuesday we were totally set up and ready!”

From this “pop-up” shelter at our Ft. Washington Men’s Shelter to the Bowery to Far Rockaway we responded to our neighbors in crisis. Our Economic Development Corporation (EDC) jobs program hires former clients who need jobs to succeed, but in the wake of the storm, it was our neighbors who were most in need.

The 30 man team was one of the first on the scene in the Rockaways, bringing several trucks with generators and pumps to help pump out basements, charge phones, and move branches and debris.

(EDC staff pictured from left: Jose Gonzalez, Roden Lowe)

When we got out there it was awful—no power, no heat, water everywhere. More people started coming later, but even arriving on Friday we were first responders. I didn’t realize just from the TV how bad it was, it was heartbreaking. These were just regular people who didn’t ask for this. We gave a hand however we could. People were really happy to see us.

-Fred Hornedo, Assistant Supervisor

02 VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
You made all the difference
Aeropostale and Miss America team up Delivering Winter Renewal Kits Capital One’s “One Week” at 3rd Street

03 NEVER GIVING UP
Clients find the jobs they need to move out of shelters
Meet Terrance Roye Barriers to Employment

04 ENVISIONING THE FUTURE
Making success happen
Fall Ball Recap Homeless Veterans Outreach Save the Date
VOLUNTEERS
Making all the difference

Every day, homeless men and women come to us with nothing, looking for a warm bed and wanting to take the first step toward a new life.

This winter more than 500 homeless New Yorkers received a Renewal Kit packed with hats, scarves, toothpaste, soap, and an encouraging note. The Renewal Kits were donated and assembled by over 60 volunteers and many more donors. Visit our website for more opportunities this Spring!

Aeropostale’s Aero Gives foundation rallied employees to fire up their ovens and become volunteer bakers for a day to raise money for breast health screening on our ScanVan.

Matched by the foundation, the bake-off raised $10,000 to support breast cancer screenings for low-income women in New York City. Special thanks to Miss USA (now Miss Universe!) Olivia Culpo for judging the competition.

Capital One employees volunteered during the bank’s One Week national community service initiative. Bankers by day, these men and women became artists, bakers, cooks, and custodians—joining the daily routine at our 3rd Street Men’s Shelter.

Capital One matched their efforts with a gift of $50,000 for workforce development. These funds will support one-stop employment assistance and job-training in food service.

Last year, 150 students enrolled in our Culinary Arts Training Program and to date, 50 found jobs in food service with 67% still on the job after 6 months.
JOBS
A path out of shelters

Terrance Roye had a lot of people give up on him. “I’ve never had anyone stick up for me, I’ve fought a lot of battles and I fought my battles on my own.”

Terrance is just one of more than 800,000 New Yorkers who struggle to find work. But his road to employment was longer and harder than most because he lived in a shelter.

Imagine the constant worry—how will you compete for a job when you haven’t finished high school, have a criminal background or a mental illness? Men like Terrance face many barriers earning what they need to live. The skills it takes to survive on the streets are not only unhelpful in landing and keeping a job, they can make it next to impossible.

But with the help of Project Renewal’s Next Step Employment Program, Terrance got coaching on interviews and job leads.

“Next Step would have something for me and they would send me right out on interviews. I was always job searching until I got my job at the Aquarium.”

But his story doesn’t stop there.

When his Next Step counselor discovered a problem with his housing situation, she quickly stepped in to help.

“I was watching people who came through the door just get worse. ‘I gotta keep hold of my job’ that’s all that I had at the time, was my job. But I kept hope alive, I said I’m not going to do that stuff. I told my Next Step counselor and she put her foot in there, she said, ‘listen, you can’t do this.’ That’s how I got out—she called them and that’s how I got my own place!”

When Hurricane Sandy caused the Aquarium to close at Coney Island, Terrance lost his job. His counselor was there for him again, getting him back to work. “I’ve never had anyone stick up for me like that.”

Special Thanks

Many thanks to Capital One and the Robin Hood Relief Fund for helping to get Terrance back to work, and for helping us meet the challenges following Hurricane Sandy.

HELPING THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

Challenge

This past year marks the highest poverty rate since 1965. From 2007 to 2011 average hourly wages fell for the bottom 70% of American workers, with the steepest drops for the lowest paid.

How We Helped

Next Step clients earned an average starting wage of $9.00 per hour, roughly 24% above the minimum wage of $7.25 in New York State.

Challenge

The joblessness rate for those without a high school diploma is almost 3 times higher than those with a college degree.

Those we serve have additional barriers to employment:

• 65% seeking jobs have a criminal justice background
• 63% seeking jobs have a history of substance abuse

How we Helped

Last year 264 adults in our program found jobs, and 1,600 worked on skills needed to keep one.

After 3 months, 77% of our clients are still on the job compared with a nationwide average of 50% for clients with similar backgrounds.
Despite Hurricane Sandy’s best attempt to derail the Junior Board Fall Ball, supporters came out in record numbers to raise awareness and funds for Project Renewal’s life-saving programs.

Even after last minute rescheduling due to the storm, we reached and surpassed all of our fundraising goals! The event drew over 400 guests, raising over $52,000, a 20% increase over last year and a humbling testament to the growing level of support we receive from young professionals. What truly matters, however, is the lives we are able to touch within our community because of your generosity.

Thank You,
Robin Lee & Timothy Valz
Co-Chairs, Fall Ball 2012

SAVE THE DATE

23rd Annual Gala Benefit and Auction
The Bowery Hotel
JUNE 6, 2013

For more information contact Nicole Scanlin at (212) 620-0340

UPDATE ON EXPANDED OUTREACH TO HOMELESS VETERANS
In the first few months of the new initiative outreach has been active and there is definite interest in our employment services:

- **25** homeless veterans enrolled in job training and placement programs.
- **20%** Homeless veterans now make up 20% of the current Culinary Arts Training Program class — with a May graduation date.
- **6** successful job placements

Get more updates at
http://blog.projectrenewal.org

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