



Fresh Youth Initiatives



**For Immediate Release**

**November 9, 2012**

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## **NYC'S ONLY YOUTH-RUN FOOD PANTRY HITS THE ROAD TO AID NEW YORKERS IN NEED AFTER HURRICANE SANDY**

**New York, NY** - Twenty youth from Washington Heights will be using their Veterans Day break to help people affected by Hurricane Sandy. These youth volunteers are from Fresh Youth Initiatives (FYI), a youth development organization in Northern Manhattan which has partnered with the Puerto Rican Family Institute's Mental Health Clinic to provide aid to those affected.

The group is bringing hand-packed food parcels to needy PRFI clients who lost virtually all of their food in the power outage caused by Hurricane Sandy and are unable to replenish their cupboards. Most of the clients reside on Manhattan's Lower East Side, and lost all of their November food supply in the power outage after stocking up in preparation for the storm. FYI's youth participants spent an afternoon sorting and packaging food items from their Helping Hands Food Pantry in preparation for their day of service on Veterans Day. Although the youth typically serve seniors and the working poor monthly at their Inwood pantry, they realized the great need in other parts of New York, and wanted to be proactive in helping their extended community.

**About Fresh Youth Initiatives (FYI):** Founded in 1993, FYI is a second home to more than 300 disadvantaged young people ages 10 -18 each year. Collectively, FYI youth provide more than 12,000 hours of service to the community each year. FYI complements its community service core with academic support, college preparation, arts and cultural enrichment activities, meaningful first-time experiences, and qualitative guidance from our staff.

**About Puerto Rican Family Institute (PRFI):** PRFI is a multi-program, family oriented health and human service agency that provides culturally sensitive services to all children, youth, adults and families, and respects all individual's ethnic, cultural and personal identities. The agency's core services include outpatient mental health treatment, child foster care placement preventive services, HIV/AIDS mental health treatment prevention and education, case management programs, residential care, crisis intervention, and Head Start.

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