



Jewish Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster



November 28, 2012

To: Jewish Community Professionals

From: JVOAD – Jewish Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

RE: Update on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Efforts

*Following are updates on the situation following Superstorm Sandy. This information includes that which has been submitted primarily by JVOAD agencies and may not be comprehensive. It is intended to provide an overview of the situation to Jewish community professionals around the country. For those engaged in recovery work, additional information is available from JFNA and specific JVOAD agencies. **This information is in addition to information distributed previously and for the most part does not repeat activity reports.***

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Federations around the country have raised close to \$5 million, including over \$3.3 million raised by UJA-Federation of New York. JFNA's Emergency Committee has allocated over \$610,000.

UJA-Federation of New York is putting out RFPs for various sectors of the community for disbursement of the \$10 million it has set aside for storm relief. The initial RFP was for immediate humanitarian needs.

The Union for Reform Judaism has distributed \$100,000 with another \$50,000 to be distributed by next week. To date, \$450,000 has been raised, but donations have dropped to a trickle.

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has collected \$45,000, some of which has gone to Nechama and some to congregations for incidental expenses.

Chabad-Lubavitch has raised about \$200,000, including a grant from UJA-Federation. Capital damages in Chabad facilities could total as much as \$4 million.

JVOAD MEMBERS

Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies • Chabad Lubavitch • Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life • Greater Miami Jewish Federation • International Association of Jewish Vocational Services • JCC Association • Jewish Community Relations Council of New York • Jewish Council for Public Affairs • Jewish Family and Career Services of Atlanta • Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta • Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles • Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans • Jewish Federation of Greater Washington • Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago • The Jewish Federations of North America • Jewish Healthcare International (JHI) • JFNA Rabbinic Cabinet • National Association of Jewish Chaplains (NAJC) • Nechama • New York Board of Rabbis • The Rabbinical Assembly • Repair the World • Schusterman Foundation • Secure Community Network (SCN) • UJA-Federation of New York • UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey • Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (OU) • Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) • United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) • Washington DC JCC

Correction: A previous report incorrectly stated the amount of money received by *MetroWest* from JFNA. As of November 16, the correct number was \$100,000.

ABOUT DONATIONS

Please DO NOT collect items for donation. There is simply no place to store these items and distribute them. As we have been saying consistently, **financial contributions are still the quickest, most effective way to help.**

ABOUT VOLUNTEERING

Please do not organize groups of volunteers to come to the area. Needs are constantly changing, making it difficult to manage volunteers. As with Hurricane Katrina, there will be plenty of long-term need for volunteer groups. Conversations are beginning and more information on mobilizing groups of volunteers is forthcoming.

In the meantime, Nechama is looking for long-term residential volunteers – those willing to come for a week or more. See www.nechama.org for more information.

SITUATION AND RESPONSE UPDATE

JFNA and *United Synagogue* sponsored a community meeting in Hoboken to discuss the storm's impact on homes and synagogues. The conversation included how those in the community could help others as well. As a result, within three business days of the meeting, Hoboken's food pantry was rebuilt and restocked, enabling the delivery of Thanksgiving meals. *Nechama* also participated in the meeting and signed up volunteers. Insurance professionals and attorneys were on hand to provide guidance, as were representatives of FEMA. Similar community meetings are happening in New York on an ongoing basis.

UJA-Federation of New York has coordinated an internal response team and assigned regional coordinators for each geographic area. Coordinators will work with local non-profits as well as *UJA-Federation's* government relations department and the *Jewish Community Relations Council*. Federation is still organizing volunteers.

Organizations are now assessing intermediate- and long-term needs, including trauma and mental health services for those affected as well as for first responders and community professionals.

There is significant need for individuals and institutions to understand what FEMA public assistance will cover and how to apply. *JCRC* is working on training community professionals.

The Union for Reform Judaism and *UJA-Federation of New York* have teamed together to enlist a project manager to assist West End Synagogue. *URJ* is assessing the number of displaced families in its orbit and reaching out to them. Congregations are also reaching out to help replace Judaica items.

United Synagogue is working with the *Rabbinical Assembly*, organizing support calls for Rabbis and congregations.

Chabad-Lubavitch is still doing relief work on the ground, distributing food and providing volunteers. Electricity has returned to two Chabad centers. Efforts are beginning to focus on rebuilding.

Repair the World is updating its website daily, aggregating and curating volunteer opportunities. Focus will soon shift to mid- and long-term needs. Some staff has been redeployed and board members have been engaged in determining what Repair's ongoing response will be. A pool of money for micro-grants has been made available for college alternative break activities beginning in December through August. Open-source educational resources are being developed. Repair is also working on how people can help from afar.

Nechama continues its clean-up efforts in the Rockaways and other Long Island communities. The primary base of operations is currently in Baldwin, NY on Long Island. Volunteer teams are being organized and Nechama is working with partners on how best to channel additional volunteers. Nechama is no longer in New Jersey but continues to stay apprised of the situation there. Additional possibilities are being explored in Brooklyn and Staten Island.

In *Ocean County, New Jersey*, the storm did enormous damage to homes and businesses on barrier islands and parts of the mainland. On Long Beach Island, the synagogue's grounds were covered with debris left behind by the storm. The *Jewish Federation of Ocean County* has organized volunteers to help with clean up and allocated some funds from JFNA assistance for supplies. Supermarket gift cards were distributed to 300 families, and interns and volunteers were sent to deliver them to those who are homebound as well as take them to the store if needed.

JCCA has put together a website of collected stories of storm relief --
<http://www.jcca.org/hurricane-sandy-jccs-storify/>