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JCCGCI Continues Services in Wake of Storm

Friday, 07 December 2012 09:54



Surveying the damage to the Sea Gate Community are Congressman Jerrold Nadler, US Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney and Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Executive Director, Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island. (Photo credit: Butch Moran.)

While many local nonprofits have been seriously impacted by Hurricane Sandy, Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, which is located at the very edge of the boardwalk, found itself directly in the path of the storm surge.

“Our offices are totally destroyed,” says Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Executive Director of JCCGCI. “Not only were the furniture, equipment and files devastated by over six feet of seawater and sewage, but the concrete slab that our building stands on was

pushed up and buckled and our walls, ceiling and floors all need to be gutted and replaced.”

On November 5th, JCCGCI's Wiener participated in a walking tour to assess the damage in the area by US Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and other elected officials, including Senator Kirstein Gillibrand, Congressman Jerrold Nadler and Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney.

[Click here to see a video of JCCGCI's headquarters following the storm.](#)

Despite the devastation, the agency responded quickly to regroup and continue its operations.

“Almost immediately a remote desktop was set up thanks to an off- site backup and a cloud based telephone system was implemented – which together enabled staff with home computers and internet connections to become functional again and maintain all our programs and services,” says Rabbi Wiener. “Various organizations and our other sites have been making desk space available.” Even this week, JCCGCI was moving another 10 staff into a space which has been made newly available.

“One of our senior centers is close to reopening after immense expenditures on clean-up and replacing all the kitchen equipment and dining room furniture,” said Rabbi Wiener. “Another senior center is on an upper floor in the same building as our offices and cannot reopen until electricity is restored to our building and heat and hot water is repaired and possible cracked sewage pipes are assessed and if necessary replaced. We are distributing meals in the community and trying to reach as many seniors as we can. All our homecare, transportation, adult literacy, work-experience, skills training, job placement, after-school and NPHD technical assistance programs are all fully operational.”

“We are here to help people, and despite the difficulties, we will continue to serve them in the exemplary manner that our clients and funding sources have come to expect from us,” said Rivkah Berman, Director, Vocational & Adult Literacy Services.

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Adoption Resource
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Workshops

12/07 - 03/01
Urban Justice
Center's Mental
Health Project
Community
Advocacy Course

12/15 - 01/16
Gowanus Canal
Conservancy
Events

01/01 - 03/31
Human Services
Workshops, GSS
Host Workshops

01/01 - 01/31
Women's Center of
Huntington
January 2013
Events

01/07
FDNY - Fire Safety
Education Unit -
Queens Council on
Developmental
Disabilities

01/08 - 01/22
Free Neurological
Support Groups

01/09
Free Conference for
Asian Parents of
Children with
Disabilities

01/11
Screening/Discussion
of Hitchcock's
"Rear Window" at
NYPSI

01/12
Eighth Annual "A
Tree Grows in
Pleasantville"

Capitol Region

01/04 - 02/11
St. Mary's

Meanwhile, JCCGCI's NonProfit Help Desk, which provides technology assistance and solutions for local nonprofits, is stepping up to help agencies who have suffered damage during the storm or want to learn how to protect themselves against future disasters. On December 11th, the NonProfit Help Desk will offer a webinar specifically geared to disaster recovery and protection. The webinar will be held from 1:00 to 1:30. [Click here for information on how to register.](#) Recordings of recent NPHD Post-Sandy webinars on "Maintaining Staff Morale After a Disaster" and "Fundraising After a Disaster" are also available at www.library.nphd.org.

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