

ATLANTIC CITY LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP

1 S. New York Ave. Suite 401 Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

Respond. Rebuild. Restore.



WHO WE ARE

October 29, 2012 is a day that will be forever etched on the hearts and minds of the residents of Atlantic City. For on this day, thousands of families, businesses and neighborhoods were ravaged by Super Storm Sandy. Hurricane Sandy was the deadliest and most destructive hurricane of the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season, as well as the second-costliest hurricane in United States history. As the largest Atlantic hurricane on

record, Sandy washed away 80 feet of Atlantic City's iconic boardwalk and damaged thousands of family homes. However, despite the physical devastation, the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group (ACLTRG) is resolved to Respond, Rebuild and Restore.

Founded by a group of volunteers from Hope Force International, local clergy, elected officials and concerned Atlantic City Residents, the mission of the ACLTRG is to

respond to resident's needs, rebuild homes and restore hope by coordinating the efficient delivery of various recovery resources.

Through a dedicated team of case managers, construction personnel, various donors, administrative staff and volunteer laborers we are able to respond to the call for help and assist residents on the road to recovery. We do this work so that Atlantic City Residents may once again hear, "Welcome Home".



AC AFTER THE STORM



FINISHED HOME DEDICATION



VOLUNTEER LABORERS

To Begin on the Road to Recovery:

Call our office at

(609) 541-2189 to set up an appointment with one of our dedicated Case Managers. We look forward to partnering with you as together we Respond, Rebuild and Restore Atlantic City!

Where We Are Located :

1 South New York Ave. Suite 401
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Phone: (609)541-2189

acltrgl@gmail.com

Website: www.atlanticcityrelief.org

Facebook:

www.Facebook.com/ACLTRG

Some of our Partners:



DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT

- Screening and Intake
- Plan & Coordinate recovery needs
- Insurance Advocacy



HOME REPAIR

- Damage Evaluation
- Volunteer Coordination
- Demolition and Construction



REFERRAL SERVICES

- Mental Health Services
- Rental Assistance
- Utility Assistance

ATLANTIC CITY LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP

Responding to Residents' Needs. Rebuilding Homes and Restoring Hope.



How We've Made Impact in 2013 - 2014*:

Assigned to Case Managers: 490

Resident's Cases Open: 167

Resident's Cases Closed: 323

Residents Assisted: 135

Homes Referred to Partners: 35

Homes Mucked Out: 491

Home Repairs Completed: 78

Volunteers: 1,545

Volunteer Hours: 58,184

Staff:

Executive Director

Case Manager Supervisor

3 Case Managers

Volunteer and Public Relations Coordinator

VISTA Grant Writer and Researcher

Finance Manager

Construction Manager

5 Construction Team Workers

*As of April 29, 2014

THE ROADMAP

Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group | Quarterly Newsletter

Progress Report

Over the past year, our case managers estimate they have seen over **3,000** residents, we've directed over **1,386** volunteers as they gave **53,703** hours of volunteer labor while mucking out **491** residences, repairing **43** homes and assisting **37** renters.

Connect

Do you still need assistance? You are NOT alone. Let us walk with you on the Road to Recovery after Superstorm Sandy. Call (609) 541-2189 for an appointment today. We are located at 1 South New York Ave, Suite 401, Atlantic City, NJ 08401. Offices are open M-F, 9a.m. To 5 p.m.

Are you willing to serve? Call our volunteer coordinator Nicole Caldwell-Gross at (609) 287-5395 or acltrgteams@gmail.com to register your group of volunteers today. We thank you in advance for your heart to serve.



Looking Behind, Moving Ahead

By Craig Snow, outgoing Operations Manager

I stood for the first time in Atlantic City on October 31, 2012 two days after Hurricane Sandy brought its devastating effects to shore. Recovery efforts began immediately as critical disbursements of donated food, blankets and toiletry kits were passed out at Second Baptist Church and other local churches. In addition, teams of outside volunteers began assisting homeowners by removing damaged household and construction materials from their homes. The early days of the disaster brought together leaders from the community that began to consider what the "Next Steps" of recovery should be. These discussions resulted in the formation in what is now called the, "Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group". As the one-year-anniversary is upon



New Direction

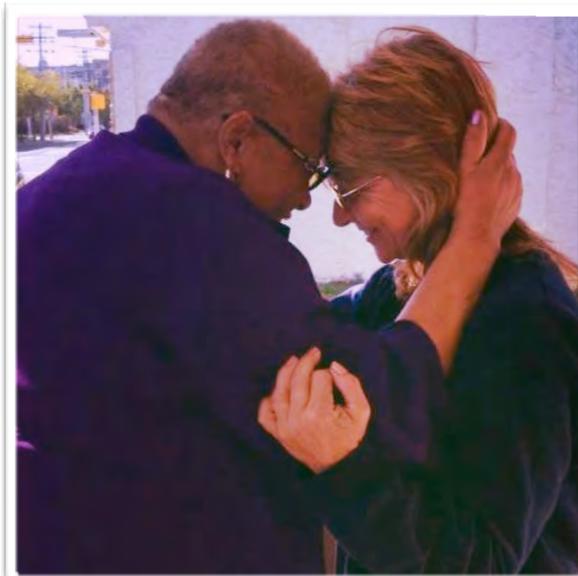
The ACLTRG welcomes new Executive Director:
Dr. Clarence Alston

"My entire professional career has involved serving people: from working as a teacher, principal, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, to School Superintendent. Now, as the Executive Director of the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group, I have the opportunity to continue serving people as I assist in their recovery from the destruction of Superstorm Sandy. It is a privilege to be part of this magnificent humanitarian effort. My goal is to work with the skilled construction teams, case managers and committed volunteers as we respond to unmet needs, rebuild structures and restore hope to Atlantic City residents affected by Sandy. We invite others who have the time and heart to join us in the effort." - Dr. Alston

us we are taking time to look back and consider what has been accomplished and what lies on the horizon. Through the efforts of 1,386 volunteers donating over 50,000 hours of their time 491 homes were mucked out, 43 homes were repaired and 37 renters were assisted with contents and rental assistance. As we continue with 56 homes currently in progress, we are forging ahead on the road to recovery, proud of what lies behind us and resolved to complete what lies ahead.

Welcome Home Hulda

by Nicole Caldwell-Gross, Volunteer Coordinator



We often take for granted the privilege and security in the simple phrase, "Welcome Home". Yet, on October 18, 2013 we witnessed its power as the refurbished home of Atlantic City resident Hulda Wright was dedicated.

Through the leadership of the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group in partnership with Joining Hands Disaster Relief, the damaged portions of Ms. Wright's home were completely overhauled from the floorboards to the ceiling. As she addressed the group she called Janice Bantner, Construction Manager (pictured with Hulda in the right above) Craig Snow, Operations Manager and the 117 volunteers who donated their time and skill, "Angels" who reminded her "[she] is not alone." As Hulda settles in, we say with heartfelt thanksgiving, "Welcome Home!".

THE ROADMAP

Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group | Quarterly Newsletter

Year End Review

In **12** months we've restored **54** homes, assisted **37** renters and served **483** clients. We've coordinated **1,432** volunteers who've given **55,495** hours of labor. We have **38** homes in active construction.

Staff Spotlight

The financial matters of our organization are managed by long time community leader and accountant, Shirlene Hoskins. She brings over 15 years of financial acumen in addition to decades of service as a non-profit administrator. Originally she attended ACLTRG meetings as a concerned citizen and representative of her community center but was soon recruited by the ACLTRG to lead the financial department. "Ms. Shirlene" as she is affectionately called by all, is a valued member of our team.



Next Stop: Thank You

The road to recovery after Hurricane Sandy has had many stops. It was paved by hundreds of clients served, thousands of volunteer hours given, and dozens of homes repaired. As the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group embarks on a new year of service, we cannot help but pause and sincerely say thank you. We are exceedingly grateful to all of our partners, funders, volunteers and residents who have trusted us with responding rebuilding and restoring after Hurricane Sandy. We recognize that this difficult time brought together gifted people and giving organizations that make this great work possible. We would be remiss to not stop and sincerely offer our gratitude to all who gave of their time, talent and treasure so that together, we could restore the city we call home. It is undoubtedly clear that there is still so much work to be done but, we embrace this new year with excitement as we continue Responding, Rebuilding and Restoring until the last resident hears, "Welcome Home!". Happy New Year!



A Message from the Executive Director

Each New Year brings us a fresh opportunity to build on the former. I am grateful that in my position of leadership I am able to build on a lasting legacy of service. In my tenure I have had the privilege of joining our Case Managers at homes of the residents we serve. These meetings have reinforced the deeply profound affect that Hurricane Sandy has had on thousands of families.

However, these experiences have also reminded me of the great impact that a group of committed people can have when they work together. The Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group has made great strides as we Respond, Rebuild and Restore Atlantic City. Yet, we do not rest on our laurels and look forward to the next year to serve more residents with excellence. We are especially grateful for our funders whose generosity makes this great work possible. It is my prayer that this new year would bring us all greater health, happiness and hope. -Dr. Alston

A Helping Hand Not A Hand Out

The following was an unsolicited letter one resident sent to our office after being served by the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group:

"Hi, my name is Lyle D. Mason, and I was affected by, and a victim of Hurricane Sandy. This is waterfront property, so the water did not have to travel far to invade and wreak havoc on my home. This was the first (and hopefully last) time something like this has ever happened to me, and to be honest, I didn't know what to do first. Eventually FEMA came out, surveyed my loss, and because of the monies they granted me, I was able to get most things fixed.



Lyle Mason and Case Manager Supervisor, Donna Nelson-Lee.

But most is not all, and I had resigned myself to the fact that since I am on disability and on a fixed income, I would have no money to finish the work, so what was still in disrepair would remain that way for a while. Then on the advice of a neighbor, I came to the 'Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group', and met with one of your counselors, Donna. She possessed a reassuring and professional demeanor, and walked me through the procedure, all the while making certain I knew this was a 'helping' hand, and not a hand-out. That was important to someone like me, because I have my pride, and have gone my entire professional life without feeling like a 'charity' case, but yet, there I was. I would like to commend her, and say thank-you, not just for the help, but by the way it was given. She is an excellent representative of your group, and you should be proud of the work she does.

Now with the work finished, it completed that unfortunate chapter in my life, and the house is once again whole. First, you gave me new carpeting for my sun-room. The workers were polite, professional, and quick. The final job was part of a facial that the wind had torn down. Once again, the workers were the same as the first, in fact, they finished it so quickly, I really didn't realize the work was done! So again I say thank you. For your help, for the workers you sent out, and for Donna."



A Chapter in the Story

The story of Somers Vansant is one that is 92 years in the making. It includes episodes of sacrifice, as he lived through the Great Depression and tales of courage, as he enlisted in World War II. Yet this most recent chapter which began with Hurricane Sandy, would be seemingly defined by turmoil. Mr. Vansant watched with horror as the family home he'd occupied since elementary school was engulfed by the rising water. His basement dwelling was completely ruined and everything from the floorboards to the ceilings was damaged. In need of direction and aid, Mr. Vansant reached out to the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group. The ACLTRG connected him with one of our

partners, Joining Hands. Together, we undertook a complete overhaul of his property and celebrated its completion at a home dedication in November 2013. During the home dedication Mr. Vansant was reminded that though we shared but one chapter in the story of his life, we were grateful that through our service it would be called triumph and not tragedy.

ACLTRG PRESENTS:

Love

YOUR NEIGHBOR

MONTH
2/2014

Calling all Atlantic City and vicinity residents to "Love their Neighbors" and Volunteer in February 2014. Contact Nicole Caldwell-Gross at acltrgteams@gmail.com

THE ROADMAP

Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group | Quarterly Newsletter



Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno Visits ACLTRG Home Rebuild Site as Part of National Volunteerism Month

In recognition of volunteer efforts in New Jersey, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno joined with ACLTRG volunteers to help rebuild a home damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The Lieutenant Governor thanked the group of volunteers, who had traveled here from Minnesota.

Lt. Gov. Guadagno joined with Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group construction personnel, staff, donors, partner organizations, volunteer laborers, Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian, and A.C. City Councilman-at-Large Frank Gilliam to welcome Anthony Jones home, as the finishing touches of his rebuild were being completed.

Three feet of water invaded the home of Anthony Jones, destroying everything on the lower level. The lower level of the home required complete gutting. Mold remediation was performed. Insulation was installed, as well as new drywall and new flooring.

"We appreciate the opportunity to have Lt. Gov. Guadagno visit Atlantic City to show her support and involvement in this meaningful effort", said Dr. Clarence Alston, Executive Director of ACLTRG.

According to the homeowner, Anthony Jones, ACLTRG has made his home look "a thousand times better, like a palace, from front to back. God sent angels and this has been an awesome experience. God is good."

Staff Spotlight

Greetings! My name is Sonia Massie and it is an honor to be able to introduce myself to you as ACLTRG's new Volunteer Coordinator/Public Relations Coordinator. I was born and raised in Atlantic City, as were both of my parents. I earned my Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in New Orleans, where I lived for fifteen years until being uprooted when Hurricane Katrina devastated my second hometown. Years later, it was from Florida that I watched my beloved hometown, Atlantic City, ravaged by Hurricane Sandy. In 2013, I moved back home to put down roots in the place where my story began. I'm sure you can imagine my excitement when offered the opportunity to assist in the process of rebuilding Atlantic City! I look forward to helping our volunteers have a memorable and rewarding experience as they dedicate their time to "RESPOND to resident's needs, REBUILD homes and RESTORE hope" in Atlantic City!



A Message from the Executive Director

We are about to mark 18 months since Super Storm Sandy disrupted portions of New Jersey's shore communities. In some forums, there will be activities commemorating the event. Some survivors who have successfully recovered will even celebrate, grateful that they have been able to begin a new chapter in their lives. The Board and staff of the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery group celebrate with them. However, in the midst of celebration, some of our friends, relatives and neighbors wait desperately for help to assist with their recovery. It is this reality that motivates the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group to continue our efforts. We are fortunate for the opportunity to help others. Each individual we support reminds us of our own individual blessings.

Often, after our construction team completes repairs on a home, the owner will permit or even request a home dedication ceremony. We participated in such a ceremony the week of April 14, 2014. I came in contact with this homeowner five months ago. She came into the office crying from the burden of difficulties associated with her home and life, in general. On the day of the dedication, she still cried. But they were tears of joy. In the refurbished living space she could have her granddaughter, a college freshman, stay with her. With her relatives and friends, we dedicated her home. The dream the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group has for other storm survivors is that their disappointment is transformed into joy and their hopelessness into restoration.

C.Alston,Ed.D.



Generous Home Adoption!

In October of 2013, a group of volunteers from Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, NJ helped ACLTRG with our rebuilding efforts. After returning home, their hearts were moved to go one step further in responding to residents' needs, rebuilding homes, and restoring hope. As representative for Fountain Baptist, Rev. Trevor Williams delivered great news to ACLTRG! Fountain Baptist has decided to adopt a home to rebuild in Atlantic City! This labor of love will include sending their highly skilled and professionally credentialed volunteers to personally help rebuild a home for which they will also provide materials. On behalf of ACLTRG and our homeowners, we give special thanks and heartfelt appreciation to the generous congregation at Fountain Baptist Church.

To all of our volunteer groups who served with us during the First Quarter of 2014, THANK YOU!

- SUNY Oswego
- Florida Atlantic University
 - Catholic Mays
 - Auburn University
- Serve Beyond Cincinnati
- Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church
 - Salem Lutheran Church
- Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
- First Parish Congregational Church

ACLTRG Awarded \$5,000 Home Depot Foundation Grant



Through its Community Impact Grants Program, The Home Depot® Foundation has awarded \$5,000 to Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group (ACLTRG). This donation will be used to continue Hurricane Sandy disaster rebuilding efforts with a focus on aiding veterans and their families.

“The Home Depot has always been a supportive partner of the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group. We have had access to The Home Depot since the day of the storm and they continue to be a reliable and invaluable resource,” said Alvin Taliaferro, Jr., Construction Manager at ACLTRG. “We are grateful to have received a \$5,000 grant from The Home Depot Foundation to assist us as we continue our mission to respond, rebuild, and restore Atlantic City.”

The Home Depot Foundation’s Community Impact Grants Program supports the work that local nonprofit veteran organizations are doing to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

“The Home Depot Foundation is committed to ensuring that every veteran has a safe place to call home,” said Fred Wacker, Director and Chief Operating Officer of The Home Depot Foundation. “We are proud to work with ACLTRG in our efforts to give back to those men and women who have so bravely served our country.”

Since its formation in 2002, The Home Depot Foundation has granted more than \$380 million to nonprofit organizations improving homes and lives in local communities. To learn more, visit www.homedepotfoundation.org.

Volunteer Spotlight: Salem Lutheran Church of Hermantown, Minnesota

The volunteers from Salem Lutheran Church came to us with great attitudes, impeccable work ethic, & GIFTS to distribute - handmade quilts and prayer shawls for homeowners and ACLTRG staff!



Volunteer Spotlight: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Charlotte, North Carolina

This group of teens from Friendship Missionary Baptist Church spent their Spring Break helping ACLTRG rebuild Atlantic City! Everyone was impressed with this exceptional Youth Group!



Here's how you can help:

- Volunteer to rebuild homes.
- Volunteer to distribute informational flyers.
- Donate construction materials.
- Donate Home Depot gift cards.
- Make cash donations.
- Contact us today with your questions and suggestions.