

Your Support Helps Sandy Survivors



Photo by Matthew McDermott

One year later, Superstorm Sandy is a daily reality for the tens of thousands who are still struggling to recover.

Many are living in damaged homes, having trouble getting the health services they need or suffering from health problems due to the storm, including stress and trauma.

Generous donations allowed AmeriCares to help survivors with critically needed programs and services. To be certain our efforts targeted unmet needs, we continue to work with dozens of local groups that closely monitor the recovery process in their communities.

Immediately after the storm, AmeriCares worked with community



relief organizations, providing them with medicines and supplies for survivors. Donations included bottled water, sleeping bags, batteries, diapers, clean-up supplies, personal care supplies—all to protect the health of survivors who were living for weeks and sometimes months in dark, cold homes or in close quarters at relief shelters or friends' homes.

With a focus on restoring health, AmeriCares also delivered enough medicine for 12,000 prescriptions, including tetanus vaccine to protect homeowners and response workers cleaning damp and damaged homes. There was also a call for chronic disease medicines to replace those lost in the storm. Our mobile medical clinic served as back-up exam space for 95 days for clinics that were damaged or lost power.

In all, we provided more than \$6.5 million in assistance for Sandy survivors and we continue to help. “We have not forgotten Sandy survivors,” says AmeriCares President and CEO Curt Welling. “We are committed to response and recovery until our job is done.”

Donors Fund Health Programs

While thousands waited for funds from insurance companies and state and federal agencies, AmeriCares developed programs and services to address the health needs of residents in dozens of shoreline communities.

In the last year, we have helped 45 local groups develop targeted assistance. Most recently, we have funded programs that:

Train doctors to recognize stress in children. With our help, pediatricians and other medical professionals are getting the training they need to recognize symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety in their patients who may be having trouble coping with the stress of relocation and upheaval due to the storm.

Connect the elderly and those with disabilities to services they need.

In New York and New Jersey, Sandy survivors have to navigate sometimes disjointed and complex networks to access assistance. With our support, trained caseworkers are helping more than 300 people—mostly elderly or those with disabilities—connect to services.

Deliver free fresh food in neighborhoods where stores remain closed.

With transportation services crippled and two major local grocery stores still shuttered, we are helping a fresh food service double their deliveries of nutritious meals to qualified residents of the Rockaways.



Photo courtesy of Shore Soup Project

Thanks to generous donations, AmeriCares supported the training of clean-up crews (top) and provided vaccines (bottom). Homebound Rockaways residents (right) appreciate home deliveries of healthful, fresh meals. Visit americares.org/hurricanesandy to see more projects your donations support.

Recovered, But Worried About Those Who Aren't

On October 29, 2012, Liz Treston and her service dog, Finn, watched from her bedroom window as seawater, sand and sewage rushed into her Long Beach, N.Y., home. In the street, Liz's van and its contents were ruined.



Liz Treston and her service dog, Finn.

Insurance covered a new van and basic repairs to her home, but did not replace the manual wheelchair Liz kept in the van. With only a power chair, Liz was unable to visit friends and family whose homes had even a couple of steps. Most of all Liz, who has a spinal cord

injury, lost her independence. She is one of many Sandy survivors with disabilities who, on top of negotiating with FEMA and insurance companies, also endured loneliness and isolation when their mobility equipment was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

With funding from AmeriCares, Long Island Communities of Practice replaced Liz's manual wheelchair. Liz was just one of 34 storm survivors with disabilities LICOP could help with wheelchairs, walkers, ramps and other assistive technology due to AmeriCares support. In all, AmeriCares has worked with 16 organizations that are helping Sandy survivors with physical disabilities or impairments.

Still, Liz worries about others. "I am involved with several disability advocacy groups and we're finding there are still quite a number of people stranded inside their homes because of the hurricane damage," says Liz, a retired speech pathologist who has used a wheelchair since an accident.

"We are still here," Liz says. "Please don't forget us."

photo courtesy of Liz Treston

A Lifeline for Hospitals and Clinics



AmeriCares mobile medical clinic was open for survivors in five coastal communities.

When Sandy damaged care facilities across New York and New Jersey, AmeriCares used donated funds and products to provide millions of dollars worth of medicines and relief supplies, a mobile clinic and nearly \$1 million in funding to ensure survivors could get the health care they needed.

In Long Beach, N.Y., after the local hospital was destroyed by 10 feet of water, AmeriCares mobile clinic served as back-up treatment space. When the hospital's primary care clinic, which serves thousands of low-income and uninsured patients, was in danger of closing, AmeriCares provided \$250,000 to help keep the program operating at a new location.

In the Rockaways, the Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center was one of the few health care facilities to remain open, due to AmeriCares support. We provided the clinic with back-up exam space, a generator and a month's worth of free care for uninsured clinic patients, a welcome relief for families in this hard-hit area.

"Our assistance is targeted to ensure Sandy survivors get the health services they need even in the most trying circumstances," says AmeriCares Vice President of Emergency Response Garrett Ingoglia.

"We have not forgotten you."

– Diana Nyad

To raise awareness and funds for Sandy survivors, endurance athlete Diana Nyad swam for 48 hours straight in New York City in early October 2013. All donations support AmeriCares Sandy relief fund. Learn more at nyadswimforrelief.com



Total Storm Relief

In one year, AmeriCares provided \$6.5 million in aid, helping an estimated 450,000 people with 1.4 million relief items and 115 health organizations and relief groups in three states with funding, supplies and medicine.

We have helped communities recover by:

- Meeting immediate needs
- Restoring health services
- Addressing long-term health needs, including mental health
- Preparing for future emergencies

AmeriCares

AmeriCares is a nonprofit global health and disaster relief organization that delivers medicines, medical supplies and aid to people in crisis around the world and across the United States.

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