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*"Joy does not simply  
happen to us. We have to  
choose joy. And keep  
choosing it every day"*

*By Henri J.M. Nouwen*

**Rev. Tom Vencuss,**

NYAC Coordinator  
Disaster Recovery Ministries

**Peggy Racine,**

LI Sandy Site Coordinator

**Gus Segredo,**

LI Sandy Construction  
Coordinator

**Stephania Petit, MPA**

Disaster Case Manager

**Rev. Bob Grimm**

Housing Coordinator

**Gina Grubbs**

Project Support/  
Communications

**Warren Ferry,**

LI East Disaster Response  
Coordinator; Disaster  
Recovery Specialist

=====  
**Rita Coughlin,**

*Newsletter Editor*

LI-SandyRecovery@  
NYAC-UMC.com

[www.facebook.com/UMLISandyRecoveryMinistry](http://www.facebook.com/UMLISandyRecoveryMinistry)



# United Methodist Long Island Sandy Recovery Ministry

**A Ministry of the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church**

Located at: Community United Methodist Church, 100 Park Blvd, Massapequa, NY 11758 516-795-1322



## What We Do: NYAC, L.I. Sandy Recovery and Beyond

Volunteer teams have been deployed primarily in Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Long Island. We have just begun working in Queens, and are working with CT Rises to develop a structure for volunteers in Connecticut. New York Annual Conference Sandy Recovery program has provided: 'muck and gut' and debris removal in the relief

phase, and repair/rebuild in the recovery phase. It has funded the purchase of building materials/supplies. We have provided direct assistance for family/home needs, as well as volunteer coordination, housing site coordination; and construction oversight. Assistance with Disaster Case Management, Disaster Spiritual and

Emotional Care, plus UMCOR-led training were also given. During the relief phase (11/2012 - 7/2013), we served 450 homes, and coordinated 15,088 volunteer hours. In the current recovery phase, (8/2013 to present), we have worked in 50 homes, and coordinated 15,328 volunteer hours.

- T. Vencuss

**Christmas**

*~Anon*

Every time a hand reaches  
out  
To help another....that is  
Christmas  
Every time someone puts  
anger aside  
And strives for  
understanding  
That is Christmas

Every time people forget  
their differences  
And realize their love for  
each other  
That is Christmas

May this Christmas bring  
us  
Closer to the spirit of  
human understanding  
Closer to the blessing of  
peace!

*“Wishing everyone the  
blessing of peace.”*

*The entire staff of  
L.I. Sandy Recovery:*

**Tom & Wendy Vencuss,  
Peggy Racine, Stephania  
Petit, Gus Segredo  
Elizabeth Wheeler,  
Barbara Garofolo, Rita  
Coughlin, Bob Grimm,  
Warren Ferry, Gina  
Grubbs, Steve Knutsen**

**Moving Forward**

**VOLUNTEERS:**

As Hurricane Sandy fades from memory, it becomes more difficult to maintain a consistent flow of volunteers. Other disasters draw the attention and resources of volunteers and teams. In response to this, we have developed a new ministry with both the Presbyterian and the Universalist/Unitarian (U/U) Churches called 'Done in a Day' (DIAD). This program tries to encourage volunteers to serve on a more short-term basis and is attractive to those within the area of the New York Annual Conference (NYAC). DIAD has worked out well. It has

become a significant part of our recovery effort.

**COLLABORATION:**

We currently work with other rebuild/recovery groups as part of the Sandy recovery effort. This allows for a much better use of volunteers, resources, and professional experience.

It is our intent (and hope) to continue the current level of commitment and services provided. Our program allows us a great deal of flexibility to go where the need is greatest.

This recovery ministry will continue to encourage and

support volunteer efforts through our churches. As we move into 2015, we look forward to starting again in March. Please call us if you want us to visit your church to talk about the recovery and other ways to engage volunteers.

Please contact Peggy Racine for Long Island at 516-795-1322, Samantha Christian at 347-252-7979 for Staten Island, or Gillian Prince at 718-594-7972, for Brooklyn.

- T. Vencuss

**Long Beach Pays It Forward**



In a show of thankfulness, six trucks and 11 city residents are bound for Buffalo, which has been pummeled by a record 7 feet of snow.

LONG BEACH - The city of Long Beach has come a long way since it was crippled by Superstorm Sandy, but its residents and officials have not forgotten all of the help they received in those trying times.

Buffalo, which has been pummeled by a record 7 feet of snow. At least 12 deaths there are being blamed on the snow, and forecasters are now worried that warming temperatures could bring major flooding.

will look to help out in any way they can. They say it's the least they can do after all the help Long Beach received during Sandy; many state troopers and regular residents from Buffalo came down to help in 2012.

It's about a seven-hour drive from Long Beach to Buffalo, but the group says it expects the trip to take much longer due to the snowy conditions. Still, they hope to return by Wednesday night to make it back in time for Thanksgiving on Long Island.

In a show of thankfulness, six trucks and 11 city residents are bound for

The Long Beach trucks will help to plow Buffalo's streets, and the travelers

-Channel 12 LI News  
November 22, 2014