

*We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."*

Mother Teresa

**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/  
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# 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

## Meet the Project Support Specialist



**Gina Grubbs**

Gina Grubbs is a very important member of the Sandy Recovery ministry, working on project support and communications.

She was born and raised in California, and moved to the east coast after marriage. For years, she was a stay at

home mom to a son who is now a college senior.

When her husband, Roy Grubbs, now pastor of the Centerport UMC, decided to enter the ministry, Gina then went back to college to finish her education, and earned a B.S. in Human Services. She worked in Connecticut in the special education field while her husband was still in seminary. Working with students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, she taught them communication and daily living skills, which helped them reach their academic goals.

This work inspired her to expand her education, and she earned her M.S. in Adolescent Education,

with a certification in Special Education.

She has been involved in youth mission for nine years with an organization called UMARMY (United Methodist Action Reach Out in Mission by Youth). This organization holds week-long Christian Work Camps that help to repair and rebuild homes for those most vulnerable throughout the Northeast. The Grubbs family moved to Long Island a little over a year ago from Westchester County.

Gina states "I am excited to work with Sandy Recovery and bring both my education and mission experience to help those affected by the storm."



## Extend Your Summer Vacation !



September is here – is your summer vacation over? **NO!** You can still participate in the Long Island Summer Daycation Done In A Day program.

The concept remains a simple one: **Start Early ...End Late...Done In A Day!** Simple projects will

be completed in one day – more complicated projects can be done in one-day segments.

Our DIAD work is continuing through September into October; as long as good weather lasts. Small teams of 3 to 5 people are encouraged to

volunteer by contacting:

Long Island: Peggy Racine  
(516) 795-1322

Staten Island: Samantha  
Christian (347) 252-7979

Brooklyn: Gillian Prince  
(718) 594-7972



**Long Island Flood Recovery Effort: ERT'S WANTED!!**



*“Islip Town was the hardest hit, recording 13.57 inches of rain in a 24-hour period.”*



Last month, Long Island received its highest recorded rainfall; an amount that is only expected once every few centuries. The rain flooded streets, parkways, homes and local businesses. Damage assessments are now being done by the local municipalities as well as some disaster response groups to determine how best to help those impacted. FEMA will join with state and local authorities to help with damage assessments in Suffolk County, in response to a letter from Governor Cuomo, requesting its help.

More than 1,000 homes on Long Island suffered damage on August 13th and local states of emergency were then declared in the towns of Islip, Brookhaven and Babylon, according to Cuomo's office. Islip Town was the hardest hit, recording 13.57 inches of rain in a 24-hour period, shattering a 2011 state record of

11.6 inches in upstate Tannersville during Hurricane Irene. By contrast, about half an inch of rain fell in New York City.

FEMA will decide if a disaster declaration can be made and federal aid dispersed. The town of Islip has estimated a damage loss of nearly \$20 million, with many homes not having flood insurance because the homes were not located within flood zones.

Given the extent of the flooding and the urgent needs, volunteers are being sought to assist with disaster recovery efforts. The **Long Island East District** of the NYAC of the United Methodist Church) is recruiting trained *ERT leaders and teams* to help with the flood cleanup effort in Babylon, Brookhaven and Islip towns.

The LI Sandy Recovery office in Massapequa will be coordinating all

deployments, and will provide team leaders with the tools and the necessary equipment to do the clean-up tasks.

Housing is available in West Hempstead, Hicksville, Lindenhurst and Central Islip on a date available basis (first come first served).

ERT training can be made available if required.

Any person willing to volunteer, or needing any further information, may contact:

**Peggy Racine,**  
**Site Coordinator,**  
 LI Sandy Recovery office  
**516-795-1322**  
[peggy.racine@nyac-umc.com](mailto:peggy.racine@nyac-umc.com)

It is suggested that you provide the date(s) that you are available, along with any housing needs.

If anyone desires ERT training, please indicate that in your response.

**Correction to August Issue**

In the last issue, we had an article in which we had written: *“A combined service group from the St. Brigid's High School of Westbury and the Notre Dame High School of New Hyde Park came in on 7-*

*11-14 to work on a home in Woodmere.”*

We have since learned that the team consisted of “High school teens from St. Brigid Church in Westbury & Notre Dame Church in New Hyde Park.

Participants are part of the Youth Ministry and go to various public and Catholic High Schools.”

Nevertheless – they were a great group of teens whose work was truly appreciated!!

