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December 10, 2012

Jason R. Lilien  
Charities Bureau Chief  
State of New York Office of the Attorney General  
sandyresponse@ag.ny.gov

Dear Mr. Lilien,

We are writing in response to your letter dated November 27, 2012. We appreciate your interest in our post-Sandy recovery programming, and we are happy to provide you with any information you require.

New York Cares is New York City's largest volunteer organization with longstanding relationships with city agencies, including the Office of Emergency Management, which has previously designated New York Cares the lead agency to mobilize volunteers in disasters. New York Cares is a Charity Navigator four-star organization that won the 2009 *New York Times* Nonprofit Excellence Award, in large part because of our prudent fiscal oversight and our transparency to all of our stakeholders. As an organization that each year mobilizes 56,000 volunteers, on projects serving 400,000 disadvantaged New Yorkers at 1,300 schools, nonprofits, and agencies citywide – and one with experience in disaster programming – we are uniquely positioned to meet community needs in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

Below, we have included answers to your questions.

- 1. What is the approximate dollar amount of donations and pledges that your organization has received to date in response to Hurricane Sandy?**

Through December 6, 2012, New York Cares has received \$2,027,573 related to the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Effort.

- 2. Will these funds be used solely for Hurricane Sandy relief? If not, approximately what portion will be used for Hurricane Sandy relief and what other purposes will funds be used for?**

Yes, all funds will be used solely for Hurricane Sandy relief.

New York Cares is committed to recognizing and honoring donor intent. Therefore, all funds received in support of the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Effort has been, and will continue to

be, restricted for use. These funds will be used to support our efforts in the areas and communities most affected by Hurricane Sandy. Since the funds are classified as a restricted asset, any unspent funds at the end of the current fiscal year will remain restricted until they are spent in the subsequent year(s) on such efforts. At present, New York Cares intends to spend more money in support of the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Effort than it anticipates receiving through restricted donations.

In order to accurately monitor how the restricted funds are being spent for both cash and accounting purposes, we have designed procedures to separately track the cash used, time spent by staff members, cost of materials and supplies, specific IT related costs, and all other expenses related to our relief efforts, with specific individuals in charge to make sure such designations are accurate. All of these procedures are consistent with our general fiscal management policies and internal controls. We have also reviewed these procedures with our outside auditors.

**3. Approximately how much has your organization spent to date on Hurricane Sandy relief?**

As of November 30, 2012, New York Cares has spent a total of \$267,476 on Hurricane Sandy relief.

**4. What services has your organization provided to those affected by Hurricane Sandy? What populations or geographical areas are being served by your organization in response to Hurricane Sandy? What services does it expect to provide in the future?**

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, many residents in areas including the Rockaways, Staten Island, and Southern Brooklyn, lost not only their power and water but also their access to the services of local nonprofits and churches, which were also incapacitated. The storm destroyed the already limited social services infrastructure in these neighborhoods. As so many New Yorkers struggle with the most basic needs, New York Cares is there to help.

Our recovery programming includes canvassing to assess damage; the distribution of food, water and other critical supplies; the muck out of homes and other buildings; and the expansion of our ongoing health, education and community revitalization programming in the hardest hit communities in the Rockaways, in Coney Island and Red Hook, and on Staten Island. For example, we served 5,000 Thanksgiving meals to local families at locations including the Queens Library's Far Rockaway Branch (where we also provided reading programs for area youth who were unable to attend school in the days immediate following the disaster). In addition, we mobilized volunteers to restock the Food First Pantry in Red Hook to avoid a shutdown when food was needed most. In the Rockaways, we are mobilizing 100 volunteers every day who, over the course of months, will muck out upward of 1,000 homes.

New York Cares is constantly posting volunteer projects, in real time on our website, as the city and our partner agencies relay their needs to us. *To date, we have deployed more than 10,000 volunteers on Hurricane Sandy relief projects, and this number grows each day.*

In addition, we launched our annual Coat Drive two weeks early, with the goal of collecting and distributing a record 200,000 coats – a marked expansion over the 76,000 coats we collected last year. As part of our relief efforts, we distributed 3,000 coats in the Rockaways the week of November 13<sup>th</sup>. So far, we have collected 43,000 coats.

We have hired additional New York Cares staff members to (1) lead teams on daily mucking out projects; (2) respond to the increased influx of volunteers and inquiries from the general public; (3) train and support an increased number of volunteer leaders for disaster response programming, and (4) oversee health, education and community revitalization program implementation in the affected areas in Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. These staff members have already started to assess the needs of local organizations and schools in the impacted areas and are developing a full array of New York Cares programs (adult and childrens' education, nutrition, fitness, socialization for seniors, revitalization, etc.) to meet those needs.

For example, in Brighton Beach, we have started a new ongoing project in which Russian-speaking volunteers bring food, toiletries and companionship to isolated homebound seniors. At the Church of the Nazarene in Far Rockaway, we now have an ongoing weekly meal service project.

- 5. Has your organization provided funding to other organizations for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts? If so, which organizations have received those funds and what is the approximate dollar amount provided to them? How does your organization determine the need for funding?**

New York Cares does not provide funding to other organizations, and has not, and will not, in this case.

- 6. Has your organization provided, or does it intend to provide, direct financial assistance to individuals, families or businesses for Hurricane Sandy relief? If so, what is the approximate dollar amount that your organization has provided to date and approximately how much direct financial assistance does it expect to provide in the future? How does your organization determine the need for assistance?**

New York Cares does not provide funding to individuals, families or businesses, and has not, and will not, in this case.

- 7. Does your organization have a plan in place on how to use any surplus funds not spent for Hurricane Sandy relief? If so, please describe the plan.**

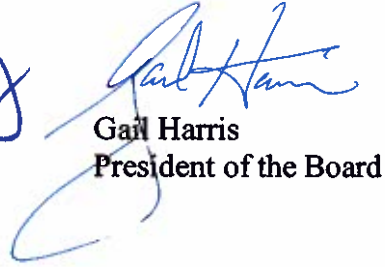
See response to Question #2 for information on funds restricted for Hurricane Sandy relief. These funds will be restricted for use and can/will only be spent in support of the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Effort, in accordance with donor intent. Any restricted funds not spent during this fiscal year will remain on the balance sheet as a restricted asset until spent on the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Effort in subsequent year(s).

Thank you again for your interest in our work. We are grateful for the opportunity to maintain the trust of our donors. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Gary Bagley at 212-402-1110.

Sincerely,



Gary Bagley  
Executive Director



Gail Harris  
President of the Board