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New York Cares Letter to the Attorney General

August 22, 2013

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Yael Fuchs
 Assistant Attorney General
 Office of the Attorney General
 State of New York
 sandyresponse@ag.ny.gov

Dear Ms. Fuchs,

This letter is in response to your August 1, 2013 request for information regarding our Hurricane Sandy recovery work. Our response also updates the information provided to the Charities Bureau in our March 22, 2013 response to the Bureau's request for information, as well as our follow-up letter dated June 24, 2013.

New York Cares has spent the following funds:

Expenditure Category	Expenditures Reported On March 22, 2013	Funding Spent Since Last Report	Total Amount Spent Through July 31
Direct expenditures	\$870,759	\$901,886	\$1,772,645
Grants to other organizations	NA	NA	NA
Grants to individuals and families	NA	NA	NA

In keeping with our mission (to meet pressing community needs by mobilizing caring New Yorkers in volunteer service) and to serve the greatest number of people impacted by Hurricane Sandy possible, New York Cares will use the remaining funds - \$1,664,608 of the \$3,437,253 we raised for Hurricane Sandy relief - to address four critical needs in Sandy-impacted areas:

- **Continuing the mold remediation program as detailed in our letter of June 24, 2013, through which we are paying third-party contractors to complete mold remediation on behalf of affected homeowners.**
- **Providing volunteer management training and volunteer project management to local nonprofits, libraries, schools, and other community-based organizations (our "Community Partners").** Many of our Community Partners in Sandy-impacted areas need volunteers to help tackle the enormous amount of work they still face relating to the storm. We have the ability to mobilize volunteers to help them. Unfortunately, most Community Partners

lack the staff, money, and ability to use volunteers effectively, if at all. In response, New York Cares has launched our Hurricane Sandy Volunteer Impact Partnership (“Sandy VIP”) program, based on the successful VIP program we developed over the past three years working with Community Partners in various areas of New York City. Through Sandy VIP, New York Cares will help to improve the volunteer management capacity of impacted Community Partners, while also delivering a full array of our existing volunteer projects. Community Partners may choose projects from our full range of programs, which include children’s education (including reading, science, math, sports, arts, and nutrition), adult education, revitalization, and hunger programs. These programs are managed by full-time New York Cares staff and led onsite by a New York Cares-trained volunteer team leader.

While benefiting from these programs, Sandy VIP Partners will also work with New York Cares over the course of one year to create and launch a customized volunteer engagement plan. These plans will help them to expand on our programs by engaging local volunteers, and by beginning new volunteer programs of their own. Sandy VIP Partner staff will participate in comprehensive volunteer management training and receive ongoing support from our staff. As a result, Sandy VIP Partners will be able to effectively utilize and strategically integrate volunteers throughout their recovery operations and beyond.

Four full-time New York Cares staff members, including a Director, will oversee the Sandy VIP program. *Sandy VIP is provided at no cost to the recipient agencies (as with all of our services to all of our Community Partners).* New York Cares is in the process of selecting 15 Sandy VIP sites (or more) based on an application process developed through our VIP program. The application is attached for your reference.

- **Increasing the number of local residents engaged in volunteer recovery.** In addition to the work with our Sandy VIP Partners, New York Cares is working to increase the involvement of local New Yorkers in the ongoing recovery efforts. Community organizations that have the capacity to manage volunteers often still struggle to find local volunteers who can support their efforts. These groups have had to deal with a ‘revolving door’ of out-of-town visiting volunteer groups or – worse – stretch limited staff resources.

To address the need for local and sustainable volunteer support, we have dedicated three full-time staff members to Sandy volunteer outreach and training. These staff members are each assigned to oversee one of the impacted areas (Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island). These staff members conduct new volunteer orientations regularly and work to engage local businesses and college students in the impacted communities. Their engagement efforts will benefit many nonprofits working in the area (including our Sandy VIP Partners) that need teams of volunteers for one-time and ongoing programs. We expect to fill 3,000-5,000 volunteer positions in the Sandy-impacted areas in the next 12 months through these efforts.

- **Implementing Large-Scale Revitalization Projects.** Many Community Partners are not fully operational at pre-Sandy levels because some or all of their facilities need revitalization. Two full-time New York Cares staff members are developing revitalization programs and recruiting teams of volunteers to implement them.

Our work with the Action Center after-school program in Far Rockaway is one such example of this effort. In June 2013, New York Cares worked with Action Center staff to create a plan that allowed them to begin operations for their summer program, which started in July. New York Cares volunteers assembled furniture for a student lounge and computer lab, and painted every room, many with bright murals, to inspire students. All materials were purchased by New York Cares. As a result, the Action Center has served 100 students this summer. In addition – as a

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further benefit to the community – New York Cares will use this facility to host ongoing volunteer programs to serve children and families in Far Rockaway this fall.

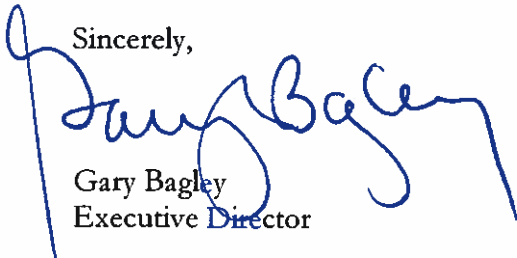
We aim to complete between 20–30 similar projects over the coming year.

In summary, we have devoted nine full-time staff members to delivering the four programs described above. Our remaining Hurricane Sandy funding is anticipated to cover the cost of their time and all project supplies. Based on the current demand for and pace of our work, we anticipate that all funds will be expended by June 30, 2014.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors met three times in April/May to review the organization's mold remediation program (detailed in our June 24, 2013 letter) and to review uses for the remaining Hurricane Sandy funds. The plan was shared with the full Board of Directors at the annual meeting on June 18, 2013.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 212-402-1110 or via e-mail at gary.bagley@newyorkcares.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Bagley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary Bagley
Executive Director

Attachment