

**New York State Office of the Attorney General  
Charities Bureau**

**Hurricane Sandy Relief Information**

**Name of Organization:** Red Hook Initiative, Inc.

1.	What is the approximate dollar amount of donations and pledges that your organization has received to date in response to Hurricane Sandy?
	\$840,000
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?
	RHI created short-term (crisis stage) and long-term (recovery stage) plans of how our organization will respond to Hurricane Sandy. All of the funds received that were earmarked for Hurricane Sandy will be used for these programs and services.
3.	Approximately how much has your organization spent to date on Hurricane Sandy relief?
	\$215,000
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?
	<p>The Red Hook Initiative (RHI) is a community center in Red Hook, Brooklyn. All of our Hurricane Sandy relief efforts have focused on this community which was severely impacted by the storm.</p> <p>RHI has served the residents of the NYCHA Red Hook Houses, private home owners, and small businesses who were impacted by the storm.</p> <p><b><u>Short-term/ crisis response included:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acted as Red Hook’s hurricane relief headquarters; keeping facility open 12 – 14 hours per day for residents, volunteers, elected officials, press, and emergency workers.</li><li>• Provided space as a warming center and as a charging station / computer access for those who were without heat and electricity.</li></ul>

- Served up to 1200 hot meals per day out of our facility and coordinating the delivery of 250 meals to residents who were home-bound.
- Collected and distributed emergency food and supplies to thousands of hurricane victims.
- Mobilized over 3,500 volunteers to assist in disaster clean-up for private home owners and businesses and canvassing in public housing.
- Hosted emergency medical clinic within our center; brought in medical volunteers and physicians from NYU hospital to visit those who were home-bound who were in need of medical attention.
- Provided emergency crisis counseling, connections to housing, case management, emergency supplies, and advocacy for Red Hook residents.
- Acted as liaison between NYCHA, FEMA, Red Cross, Mayor's Office, elected officials, and residents/ business owners to facilitate communication of needs and response.
- Provided support to individuals and families who were already enrolled in RHI.

**Long-term Recovery Efforts include:**

**Support Resilient and Healthy Red Hook Community members through Social Work and Case Management Services**

- Assist Red Hook residents in applying for benefits, complete FEMA paperwork, or manage claims related to the hurricane.
- Provide counseling services to adults, youth, and families who need additional support related to their experience during the hurricane or personal losses as a result.
- Develop a long-term case management plan for 250 individuals who have been relying on RHI to provide two meals per day (since the hurricane); continue to coordinate meals while connecting clients with a long-term service.
- Refer individuals to long-term programs that may have been identified during crisis management: educational advocacy, college readiness/ application support, employment referrals and job training, HIV testing, GED classes, and youth programming.
- Host attorneys from Legal Aid Society at RHI two afternoons per week; provide support, communications to residents and act as a liaison in the neighborhood.

**Build Better Opportunities for Economic self-sufficiency through Support for Job Seekers and Job Readiness/ Retention Support to Young Adults**

- Provide case management for young adults who are applying to jobs that have been made available in storm-affected communities. Many of these workers were displaced from a job or were unemployed before the storm, but are now eligible for work.
- Provide employment to young adults through RHI, who will work up to 20 hours per week in local businesses impacted by the storm. This partnership will provide employment and job training for young people, while providing "free" labor to a small business bouncing back from the disaster.

**Create New Opportunities for Communication and Information in Red Hook by supporting Internet Access throughout our Low-Income Community**

- RHI has been establishing a community-wide wireless network to ensure that internet

access can be available to everyone in Red Hook. During the storm, RHI received support from FEMA to boost this system. We will work this coming year to strengthen the network and to work to bring access to public housing in Red Hook.

**Connect Public Housing Residents to their Neighbors by Participating in a Neighborhood-wide Recovery Coalition**

- RHI will work closely with neighborhood partners on long-term recovery efforts including, but not limited to: advocating for NYCHA to repair public housing in a way that best prepares for the future, developing a plan to boost economic recovery and full return of the small business community, developing a long-term neighborhood-wide emergency preparedness plan, and responding to the needs of individuals and families as they arise.

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?

Red Hook Initiative has not provided funding to other organizations.

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?

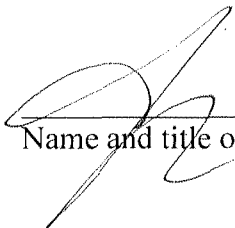
Thus far RHI has provided \$30,000 worth of direct financial assistance or purchase of necessary supplies for community residents. Moving forward, RHI plans to spend another \$50,000 on direct financial assistance.

RHI has always had a “participant special needs fund” in order to purchase needed items for low-income individuals or families. This may include food, medication, transportation to medical visits, clothing, or household items.

RHI’s social workers and case workers will use existing criteria to determine if individuals or families have financial need. RHI often purchases necessary items or provides gift cards for food or clothing. In some cases where financial need is demonstrated a debit card is issued. For all of these processes RHI keeps strict accounting records including name and information for the person receiving the benefit and approval from a staff member who signed off on the need/ confirmed receipt. All records are kept and reviewed by our auditors annually.

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 that plan.

RHI does not anticipate having any surplus funds as our work will stretch throughout 2013. RHI's board of directors meets every other month. They will receive a financial and narrative report of hurricane recovery work at all 2013 meetings. Should the work be completed and funds remain, the board would determine how to re-allocate the funds, if necessary. In the event that the board created a new plan, all funding would go to support residents of the Red Hook Houses for long-term anti-poverty work, in connection with our ongoing mission.

  
Name and title of representative

12/19/2012  
Date

*Note: RHI's Executive Director received an extension to file this report on 12/19/2012. Permission was granted on 12/14/2012.*

Please email this document with your responses to [sandyresponse@ag.ny.gov](mailto:sandyresponse@ag.ny.gov) by December 11, 2012. You may obtain an electronic copy of this document by emailing a request to that same address.