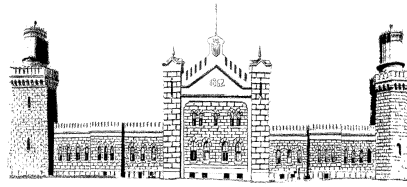


News•



•News

Highlands Business Partnership, Inc.

PO BOX 375

HIGHLANDS, NEW JERSEY 07732

732-291-4713

**For Immediate Release:
January 26, 2013**

**Media Contact: Diane Keaveny
email: hbp@highlandsnj.com**

HIGHLANDS RECEIVES HELP FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF VOLUNTEERISM

HIGHLANDS, NJ – The weeks following **Hurricane Sandy**, the super-storm that brutally battered Highlands, NJ, left our businesses in dire need of clean-up assistance. The State of NJ Division of Travel and Tourism, Executive Director Grace Hanlon contacted Carla Cefalo, President of the Highlands Business Partnership and offered much needed help. Ms. Hanlon put us in touch with the Governor's Office of Volunteerism and the NJ Commission on National and Community Services. Executive Director Rowena Madden put out the word to hundreds of good-hearted people wanting to do something to help victims of this unprecedented storm.

The Highlands Business Partnership's Business Advocate coordinated the volunteers and directed them to the Highlands businesses in need of help. These volunteers traveled from as far as Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York and all over the state of the NJ to offer help. Many came with their own tools and the knowledge to remove dry wall and pull up floors. The volunteers brought masks and a lot of muscle, many of who returned to help out on the weekends that followed. Renee Rivera, General Manager of the Clam Hut said, "The kindness and compassion of the volunteers, who were complete strangers to me, helped me get through a very overwhelming process." "I have made wonderful friends that I will cherish for years to come," she added. Ara Jamgochian, owner of the Claddagh said, "we received about 30 hours from volunteers when we could not find anyone to help." The outpouring of help touched Lynn Weber of Nauvoo Cottages, "It was amazing that people would be that giving to complete strangers," she added.

The businesses were grateful for the outpouring of help. "Highlands was able to make clean up progress much quicker than our neighbors because of the generosity of volunteers, my phone rang non-stop," said Diane Keaveny, HBP Business advocate.

The Highlands Business Partnership is a 501C-3 non-profit commercial alliance dedicated to fostering economic growth and the continued revitalization of Highlands. For additional information on the Partnership's programs and progress of our restoration, visit www.highlandsnj.com or call 732-291-4713.
