

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Recognizes the Importance of Volunteerism in Rebuilding New Jersey Communities

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Tags: [Hurricane Sandy](#)



Trenton, NJ –Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today participated in two volunteerism events in Seaside Heights and at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Newark to recognize individuals who have dedicated their time and efforts to rebuild New Jersey communities severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy. The events were part of an ongoing celebration of service during National Volunteerism Month in April.



“Although nearly 18 months have passed since the storm, it’s important to not only remember, but promote the fact that so many volunteers remain engaged in the recovery process,” said Lt. Governor Guadagno. “These dedicated individuals are committed to restoring the communities that were affected in New Jersey, and in doing so deserve our highest praise and gratitude. Without their efforts, many families would not yet have been able to return to their homes, and I’m delighted to have the opportunity to thank them personally.”

To begin the day’s activities, Lt. Governor Guadagno assisted volunteers from the North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM) as they worked on rebuilding a home in Seaside Heights. Due to the storm, the home suffered considerable damage and was infiltrated by three feet of water.

“We have completed 73 work requests and have 16 open jobs at this time,” said Billy Layton, who oversees NCBM’s Hurricane Sandy rebuilding efforts.

The NCBM is a national and international ministry dedicating to helping those in need, dating back to its first disaster response in Red Springs, North Carolina in 1984. The ensuing three decades have witnessed them assist in numerous events across the United States and throughout many other parts of the world.

Lt. Governor Guadagno’s next stop was at NJIT, where she attended a reception honoring student volunteers who engaged in community service as part of Alternative Spring Break.

This year, more than 340 NJIT students, faculty, staff and alumni volunteered throughout Bergen County, Newark, Jersey City, and across the Jersey Shore to rebuild and restore local communities. In doing so, they assisted with a variety of tasks that included beach replenishment to renovating homes to distributing food and clothing.

“Spring Break has traditionally been a time for college students to unwind. To see so many students give up their vacations to engage in community service projects that benefit New Jersey families in need is truly commendable,” noted Lt. Governor Guadagno. “They are true role models and set a wonderful example for their peers.”

As of March 20, 2014, New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), which is responsible for logging total state volunteerism efforts, reported that 209,148 volunteers from New Jersey and across America have served 1,452,320 hours with non-profit groups since the beginning of Sandy recovery. This service, in turn, is estimated to

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have a total dollar value exceeding \$41 million.

Those interested in seeking volunteerism opportunities in New Jersey, or who simply wish to learn more about the efforts of the Governor's Office Volunteerism, are encouraged to visit Volunteerism.NJ.gov.

PHOTO CAPTION: Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and volunteers from the North Carolina Baptist Men(NCBM) who worked on rebuilding a home in Seaside Heights.

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