As Hurricane Sandy has left millions of people in need of food, water, personal care items, cleaning supplies, shelter, and more, Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) volunteers are working diligently to meet their needs.

This past weekend Northeastern and Greater New York Conferences had over 500 volunteers distribute cleaning supplies, blankets, personal care items and served hot meals in Far Rockaway, Coney Island and Staten Island, NY. Among the volunteers were 150 students from conferences in Atlantic Union, led by Pastor Jose Cortez, Jr. and also a team from Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) partnered with ACS serving the survivors.
At Staten Island, while distributing the care kits, a lady approached and stated the need for a generator. She explained that there were three families living in her one home. She was so thankful that ACS DR had a generator to give her.

In Atlantic City, New Jersey and Allegheny East Conferences had volunteer teams distributing blankets, winter coats, personal care kits, flood buckets, clean up kits, shoes and boxes of food. Among the volunteers were students from Washington Adventist University and Takoma Academy. Feed The Children and Croc Shoes contributed to the food, personal care kits and shoes.

Pastor Ruben Merino, ACS DR Director of Greater New York Conference, states that the conditions have improved and the power is coming back to many locations but the city officials have reported that 70,000 homes are going to continue without power for several more weeks.

He wants to mobilize 6,000 volunteers in a special operation ‘We Love NY’ over the Thanksgiving weekend, along with Northeastern Conference volunteers.

For more information please visit our website www.communityservices.org.