Adventist Heritage

From: Tony Romeo / REACH-NYC <anthony@reach-nyc.ccsend.com> on behalf of Tony Romeo / REACH-NYC <romeo.anthonyj@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 04, 2012 9:20 PM
To: Adventist Heritage
Subject: [Spam:****** SpamScore] NYC - Hurricane Soup and Hot Chocolate / Hitting The Streets

November 5, 2012 / New York City
Dear Wendy,

I am writing this short newsletter at 8:00 p.m. sitting in my town’s Volunteer Ambulance Corp building, were people are sleeping on cots and working on their lap tops. It is day 8 with no power in most of the homes in the town. My family is lucky and blessed to have an old fashioned wood burning stove to keep us warm.

The following is a short glimpse of what has been done to help our neighbors living in New York City. It is only a drop in the bucket, as we joined various groups and the National Guard, stationed in Niagara Falls, NY who came to offer help to the thousands in need.

It is estimated that over 40,000 people will have to be relocated to emergency housing, since their homes or apartments are now without heat or any power. Many homes have been destroyed and people are in need of a place to stay as the temperatures this evening are expected to be at 28 degrees.

The stories varied from person to person, as members of Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church met for the first time after the destructive super storm, named Hurricane Sandy.

REACH-NYC in association with young and older members of the Manhattan Church, located in the heart of the West Village, planned to do something to help our neighbors. We met for a simple study and worship service, with visitors joining us from Loma Linda, California and Texas. Members came to church, even though there was very limited bus and rail service to Lower Manhattan and the West Village.

My wife and I drove into the city bringing freshly made hot Pasta Fagioli Soup, an Italian classic. Made with small round pasta and pinto and garbanzo beans, the soup was well received by members and those in our neighborhood surrounding the church. Later in the early afternoon, the young professionals of the church along with life long members of the church fanned out to the Lower East Side that was hit by the storm. People living in the neighborhood, were already standing on long lines...
in a city park, waiting for needed supplies of food and clean drinking water.

Another team of members of our group, went to Washington Square Park, in the West Village, to hand out the great tasting soup along with hot chocolate and bottle of drinking water. Both venues had grateful people accepting the warmth of not only the food, but also the warm smiles of those trying to add a little bit of love to a horrific weekend filled with devastating loss.

Working with our partners at Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church, REACH-NYC gave out over 500 servings of soup and a combination of hot chocolate and fresh bottled water. Many busy hands at Manhattan Church made fresh sandwiches to hand out and filled containers of the hot soup that for a few minutes filled the need of outstretched hands that appreciated the caring love.

Partners included a battalion of men and women from the National Guard who carried the boxes of soup and helped hand out the supplies to the long lines of people waiting in the chill afternoon air.

Here are a few photographs that capture some of the event that took place on Saturday morning and afternoon. The day started off with serving a hot breakfast right out in front of the church steps to passersby of 232 West 11th Street, the home of Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church. The neighborhood knows we are here, and this is just the beginning of what we think is a new direction for the church - ministering to our neighbors by getting off our pews and into the streets of NYC.

Breakfast is served in front of Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church, 232 West 11th Street. Many neighbors enjoyed the free soup, bagels and hot drinks.
Inside the church, a relaxed study of the Bible with children's stories were enjoyed by all who came out after the storm. A visitor from Loma Linda, CA read a story to her own child and members of Manhattan Church.

More stories from a visitor from Texas. Manhattan Church is always a welcoming place to worship in NYC. Recent visitors have come from Africa, Asia and all part of the EU. We are all family on any given Sabbath morning.
A time for thanks to God for protection from the storm, came from people like Stephanie who lives in the Inwood section of Manhattan, located on both sides with water from the Hudson and East Rivers. She prayed all night for protection.

Hot soup is hand delivered to the Lower East Side where there were literally thousands waiting for food. On arrival, we saw hundreds of New Yorkers who volunteered to help their fellow neighbors, joined by members of the National Guard.
Getting to know some of our neighbors. Pastor Romeo listens to a protestors about some of the problems in the area. The animated discussion ended with an invitation to stop by Manhattan Church and interest shown to do just that.

A life long member of Manhattan Church praised God for protection and shared stories of neighbors helping neighbors during the storm. New Yorkers are really wonderful people, once you get to know us. Sister Goldine has been a member of Manhattan Church for over 38 years. She joined the group handing out soup in the afternoon.
Smiles and a time out in front of the area where thousands sought help. Listening to the needs of people is what is needed and it does make a difference.

Nestor Sanchez, led a simple song service with classic hymns, to open a time of testimony.
Irene Sanchez, Treasurer of Manhattan Church shared how listening to a visitor to Manhattan Church has led to her new found love of "Juicing."

Mission Field: Washington Square Park, Greenwich Village, NYC
Giving out hot soup on the West Side in Washington Square Park, NYC.

"Here is some hot soup, and a sandwich. God bless you."
"Here is some bottled water." "Thank you."

Smiles warm the soul as well as hot soup. Young women are members of a growing young adult contingency attending Manhattan Church and participating in REACH-NYC activities. Left to right, Gabriela from Gainesville, FL., Shasha, a member of the United Nations Diplomatic team from the Bahamas, and Crystal who will be baptized in December. She is a recent graduate and currently working as a dentist in NYC. Three of the best smiles in NYC and the young man in the photo appreciates their kindness.
The volunteers in front of a National Guard vehicle after handing out 500 servings of hot soup, hot chocolate and fresh bottled water.

Sabbath evening full moon outside, helped light the darkness. No charge for natural evening light.
Jennifer and Marlene sitting in candle light on day 6 of the storm that left our home in the woods without power.

The wood burning stove that is keeping us warm and stacks of wood from the storm that hit our area two years ago. There is irony in being kept warm by a tree that fell a few years ago. Old tech still works.

If you would like to help New Yorkers in this time of need who have lost everything, please send your tax deductible gifts made out to "REACH-NYC" and mail it to: REACH-NYC, PO Box 651, North Salem, NY 10560. All gifts marked "SANDY" in the memo section will be immediately sent to Adventist Community Services who we are working with.

If your church can please help out during this immediate need, it would be most appreciated. Perhaps you can inform your church wherever you live and be a friend to the Greater New York area.
Collect a combined offering as many people have no where else to turn. Staten Island has been devastated, including sections of Long Island and the Rockaways.

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide. New York City churches will be taking several offerings to help victims each Sabbath during services, in the month of November. The leadership of the Greater New York Conference under the direction of President G. Earl Knight, Secretary, Gerson Santos and Pastor Ruben Merino, who leads Adventist Community Services has been outstanding.

Keep New York City in your prayers.

May God richly bless you and give you abundant peace.

Best regards - Tony Romeo, Pastor / The REACH-NYC Team

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Announcing The Next REACH-NYC Sponsored Vegetarian Plant Based Seminar
Sunday, November 11, 2012 / 3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
In The Health Seminar Kitchen of Historic Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church
232 West 11th Street, NYC
Register Today at: reachnyc.contact@gmail.com

Two Physicians from Mount Sinai Hospital will be with us as guest speakers, so this is an event, that you will not want to miss.

We will keep you informed if there is a need to postpone this popular event, due to the situation in Lower Manhattan, but for now, we are moving forward!
Christina Persaud, MPH, RD, Certified Diabetes Educator, Lactation Consultant starts things off at our last Health Seminar held on September 30, 2012.

Christina Persaud details healthy concepts with participants. 35 participants took part in the delicious and educational seminar.
Chef Marlene Romeo begins the demo and tasting portion of the Vegetarian Plant Based Seminar. All the ingredients will be included in the recipe booklet that each participant will be eager to receive. All foods are prepared fresh in the kitchen where busy cooks will chop, slice and dice the tasty ingredients.
Join the group of healthy minded New Yorkers at the next seminar.

Busy kitchen chefs will prepare the meal from recipes that will be given out. It takes many dedicated hands to have a successful seminar. Master Chef Rennis Gardner is seen with a delicious pot of black beans.

Register today
reachnyc.contact@gmail.com
Saturday Morning, November 10, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.
FREE Breakfast with the Word
Study begins at 9:50 a.m.

Join us for a nice, simple breakfast of a healthy whole-grain NYC bagel, fresh fruit, and a hot drink, and wake up your mind with the study of God's Word.

This is a relaxed setting where all are invited to join in, no matter what your faith tradition.

We meet on Saturday mornings at historic Manhattan Church in the West Village, in an intimate setting we call Cafe Reach:
232 West 11th Street, NYC just a block-and-a-half west of Seventh Avenue.
Breakfast is served at 9:30 a.m.
Study begins at 9:50 a.m.

See you for "Bible with a Bagel."

Invite your friends.

This free breakfast is sponsored by supporters of REACH-NYC and we thank them.

Click here for map of location of Manhattan Church

Donations to REACH-NYC help us in our efforts to reach out
to the people of New York City. REACH-NYC is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt corporation, and all contributions are fully tax-deductible.*

**Make A Donation**

Contributions can also be made by check payable to:
"REACH-NYC"
and mailed to:
REACH-NYC, P.O. Box 651, North Salem, NY 10560

Thank you for helping the REACH-NYC ministry!

*A receipt will be sent recognizing all contributions at the end of the year for tax purposes.*