

For Hurricane Sandy victims, your help is still needed

Letter carriers have long memories. We remember every detail of our route—every place and every person—and when something isn't right, we can sense it. The pages of *The Postal Record* often contain stories about letter carriers saving lives on our routes, like the elderly patron who didn't come for her mail that day.

And we remember when our fellow postal workers face tragic circumstances, stepping in to help long after the rest of the public has moved on.

It's been several months since Hurricane Sandy slammed into the Northeast. Hundreds of postal workers lost homes and property. At least two lost their lives, and others lost family members.

We haven't forgotten.

Through the Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF), letter carriers are leading the way in the effort to raise funds to help our fellow workers caught in the path of the storm. Since Sandy hit last October, letter carriers have donated the most money to PERF of any employee group—more than \$64,000 through the middle of March.

"I'm really proud that letter carriers are answering the call to help through PERF—but even as more money comes in, so do more people who need help," said NALC President Fredric Rolando. "That's because PERF helps with costs that aren't covered by insurance or government assistance, and it takes time to work those things out. There still are applicants coming to PERF for help in getting their lives back to normal."

PERF provides assistance to postal employees who are victims of natural disasters or fires. It provides grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$14,000, depending on the total amount of qualified loss after insurance and other relief assistance, to both craft workers and managers.

Since postal workers affected by a fire or natural disaster rely on govern-

ment assistance and insurance first, and have to get their affairs in order—sometimes by replacing documents lost in the disaster—applications for help can arrive several months after the incident. PERF needs to sustain its resources to be sure help is available for everyone who needs it.

PERF also needs to be there for other applicants who have lost homes in fires, tornadoes or other disasters. They may not be victims of a large, headline-making natural disaster like Hurricane Sandy, but they need help just the same.

You can mail a check to PERF at P.O. Box 7630, Woodbridge, VA 22195, donate by credit card online at its website, postalrelief.org, or text 50555 to make a one-time donation of \$10 (other charges may apply). You also can give to PERF through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC); the CFC number for PERF is 10268.

If you need help from PERF, visit its website, postalrelief.com, for eligibility and application information, call 202-408-1869 or send an e-mail to perf10268@aol.com. **PR**

**A harm to one
is a harm to all**

Donations to PERF can be made:

- Online at postalrelief.com
- On your phone by texting "PERF" to 50555 (\$10 donation)*
- By sending a check made payable to "Postal Employees' Relief Fund" in
- By contributing to PERF through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) by designating #10268

Your donations are tax-deductible.

*See details on text donations on the back cover

An example of the reconstruction: New York City Transit's subway system is expected to take years to rebuild from the substantial damage from Hurricane Sandy and the flooding that followed.

Photo: Metropolitan Transportation Authority / Patrick Cashin

