

Far Rockaway  
Jordan Goldstein

Going to back to Brooklyn was an eye opening experience. Being on the trip last year allowed me to see the devastation that Hurricane Sandy did to the members of the community. It destroyed their homes and completely changed their lives. After being there again it is clear that so much work still needs to be done. Houses still need to be rebuilt, donations are needed just as much as they were a year ago and stories are eager to be heard. We spent two days priming and painting a house that otherwise may not have happened for months. Also, these people haven't lived in their own house for over a year. They don't have the luxury of being able to go home and rest after a long day. For the people whose homes were destroyed it is constant work trying to get help and figure out how they can live a normal life again. Helping out for the second time around really made me feel good knowing I was giving back to the people that many may have forgotten about. It is so close to us here in Westchester that we have an obligation to help. While in Brooklyn, we visited a synagogue that needed to rebuild their ark. This was an eye opening experience due to the fact that, at school, we read Torah every week and can pray and read Torah at the shuels around us without thinking twice about it. However, the members of this synagogue now must find new places to pray. After helping out again in Brooklyn it is clear that there is still a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done and we cannot sit back waiting for others to do it.