

Ethan Richard

Far Rockaway Service Trip Final Project

Going to Far Rockaway was a very meaningful experience for me. Going into the trip I really didn't know what to expect. I had heard from someone who previously went on the trip that the service was so much fun and also so inspirational. After hearing this it made me even more excited than I already was to go on the trip. Finally when the day of Far Rockaway had come I was so excited to be able to have such an inspiring experience that I was going to do.

My group and me accomplished a lot in the one-day that we worked in Far Rockaway. Though it was very dusty down in the basement that we were working in it felt good to know that I was helping someone for the better. The house that we were rebuilding was the home of a family and the mother owned a store in the basement of her home and when Sandy hit the Rockaways her store was completely destroyed. Though we did not meet her while we were working after we were done working the homeowner agreed to go on the bus and talk to the whole entire group.

An anecdote that I have was when I was at West End Temple and was eating dinner. A few others and I met a couple people and one of them ironically had been volunteering at Friends Of Far Rockaway and we saw her the next day.

The most meaningful thing for me on the trip was when we delivered the food to the soup kitchen. Rebuilding the house was also very rewarding but we had not completed the whole house. At the soup kitchen I felt like I was making a

huge impact for the people who go there. Also after hearing how vital the soup kitchen was after Sandy it really made me feel good that I wasn't only making an impact on one family but that I was making an impact on many people.

Far Rockaway was a very rewarding experience for me and I am really looking forward to continue working on service trips with J-Teen. I had so much fun, met new people, and made a lasting impact on many people's lives. I am really looking forward to going back on another service trip with J-Teen.