

Jordan Josephs

After doing service work last year in Far Rockaway it was clear to me more work needed to be done. While on the bus back to Far Rockaway I was hoping to see the areas hit by Sandy back on their feet. However it was not the case. Even though I spent a long weekend with friends and other volunteers, helping the victims of Hurricane Sandy last year. It became clear to me that we all had more work to do.

We started our trip working at different people's homes trying to rebuild them back to a livable state. At first it just felt like work, but as the day went on and especially when we met the owners of the homes it became more than work. I had such a strong feeling that I had to do more. Just going through the motions of building the home would not be enough. I felt that I needed to put the people who were effected by the storm in my mind to really finish the project. It really stuck me how fortunate some of us are to still have a safe and warm home, when others are suffering.

The other project we did was to help a soup kitchen prepare food. Last year I went to the same soup kitchen, but this time I took on different job. Instead of cutting up vegetables I went to the basement and set up give away backs for people who cannot afford groceries. Setting up these bags really put in perspective how lucky I am to not need to rely on a soup kitchen for food, and how people need more help.

Even though this service trip didn't solve every problem we sure had a great impact on everyone we met. Whether it was helping in a soup kitchen or a food pantry, as a team we did not only help those in need but left an ever-lasting impact on those people. Something I will always remember are the connections I made with some of the staff in the soup kitchen and people who were devastated by the storm. Even though some people may not see how powerful a group of teens are, it is evident through our work, how much we can accomplish and how many lasting impacts we can make.