

Ari Leffell

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### **My experience in Far Rockaway**

The weekend in far rockaway was really a great experience. Going to Brooklyn last year, it was expected to see all the things going on after the hurricane. However, going back a year later, it was surprising to see all the hardships that people still have to deal with today. Being on J-teen, and doing the service trip with my friends was once again amazing. I believe that I got a lot out of this trip in several different ways. First of all, working on the houses felt very rewarding. Although I was unable to meet the person who owned my house like the other groups, I still felt more of a personal connection in what I was doing. Second, going to the synagogue, and hearing people speak of their experiences throughout the past year with hurricane sandy was truly special. Hearing the young girl, who is even a few years younger than me speak was awesome. Hearing how she just wanted to help the public, and went with it, and figured out what do as she went along was really cool. Lastly, going to the two food kitchens was as always, very eye-opening. The first one, even just hearing the woman speak about everything that goes into making it work, and helping everyone, and most importantly the lines that form because of people that need food was special. This time around, being the second time I have visited Masbiah food kitchen, I believe was a better experience. Being that it was just our group in the food kitchen, I think everyone, myself included got more out of it. Overall, this being my second time going on J-teen, it was once again very beneficial, and helped me notice how lucky I really am. I am also very fortunate to be a part of J-teen, because it is something I can enjoy doing with friends, while giving back at the same time.