As the sponsor of the Sesame Flyers Bildersee Beacon Community Center at IS 68 in Canarsie Brooklyn, Sesame Flyers operations there were severely impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Sandy not only closed the community center for one week, it devastated the homes and families from literally one block away, all the way down from Ave K to the bay. This community center which we have sponsored since 2004 services over two thousand youths and their families annually, from afterschool programs to summer camps to summer youth employment jobs to GED and computer classes. Many of whom were least prepared for this devastation as this area was not evacuated and designated as a zone B and not a zone A which would have required a higher level of preparedness to whether this storm. Sandy flooded hundreds of homes, destroyed many vehicles and paralyzed many families from electricity, transportation, heat and debris.
From day one after the storm, Sesame Flyers has been flooded with cries of help from families, organizations and elected official to lend a hand. Most recently on Saturday November 10th, Sesame Flyers staff and volunteers worked with Senator John Sampson, Assemblyman Nick Perry, City Councilman Jumaane Williams FEMA and state officials, and Canarsie residents like Maxine Alexander who brought with her a coalition of volunteers including, Caribbean Cultural Theater, Guyanese Cultural Association, Girl Scouts and many others, to man the Disaster Recovery Center set up at the old Roman Catholic school at Flatlands and Rockaway Parkway. Residents poured in to get assistance, from cleaning supplies, to financial assistance, to temporary housing, to a hot meal.

Sesame Flyers will continue to work with other community organizations in the days and weeks to come to assist with the tremendous effort necessary to rebuild all who have been affected from this storm. On November 20th from 1pm until, Sesame Flyers will be working with Redemption Youth and various other local organizations at Bildersee Beacon to collect food, clothes and toiletries for families in need and also provide free health screenings, counseling, and a plethora of resources for the entire community.
We have provided a page of links, resources and organizations who have joined together to assist in the Sandy Recovery Effort. Please join us when and wherever you can.

- FEMA Hurricane Sandy
  [http://www.fema.gov/sandy](http://www.fema.gov/sandy)
- NY City - Food / Shelter / School / Election Information
- New York State Hurricane Info
- New York City Elections
- New Jersey Hurricane Info
  [http://www.state.nj.us/](http://www.state.nj.us/)
- Hurricane Sandy volunteer opportunities
- New York Post-Hurricane Sandy Info/Resources
  [http://www.kevinpowell.net/blog/](http://www.kevinpowell.net/blog/)
- International Preparedness Network
  [http://readyforanything.org/](http://readyforanything.org/)
- New Jersey Transit
- MTA
  [http://www.mta.info/](http://www.mta.info/)
- Gas