

Sharing skilled labor and the Love of Christ in New Jersey

Neshaminy Warwick Presbyterian Church's adult mission team spent a week helping homeowners in New Jersey whose homes were devastated by Hurricane Sandy.



The team was able to offer skilled assistance to several homeowners in Ortley Beach, Brick, and Toms River, but they saw that plenty of needs still remained at the shore.

Team member Sandi Flynn shared that in Donna's home that was flooded by 8 feet of water, only the top cabinets in the kitchen were saved. There were drywall and peel & stick tiles on the floor, but not much else. The homeowner had been living 80 miles away with her sister and driving in to work each day for a year.



Donna's request was for installation of cabinets, countertop and trim, painting, and fixing of a cement step. She was blessed with a skilled team that was able to accomplish all of those requests and much more. By the end of the week, there were walls spackled, sanded and painted, new door frames and doors, patio and steps repaired, bathroom trimmed, shelving purchased and installed in closets and laundry room, windows trimmed and cleaned, the enclosed porch finished, a sub floor laid and tiled, a microwave, drywall, and countertops purchased and installed, and more.

The team bought flowers for Donna and left the home ready to move in after inspection.

When Donna reached her home and called Sandi, she couldn't talk through her tears. The home was beautiful for the first time in over a year; even the dog was not scared to be in the house anymore.

The minister from Morning Star Presbyterian Church, one of the sites hosting volunteers, told the team they had helped get a homeless person back into her house after a year. It was a moving comment for the team.

Thanks to the team members from Neshaminy Warwick Presbyterian Church, who have more than once left the comforts of home and offered their skills to serve their neighbors in need of assistance following a disaster.

PDA received an update from the author in May 2014, following the team's return trip to New Jersey. They were able to visit and have lunch with Donna and finish a few things to help her get settled in her house. Sandy shares, "We laughed and just enjoyed each other. It's like we have been friends forever." What a great reminder that what teams leave behind is often more than just what their tools accomplish.

Thank you to volunteer team member Sandi Flynn for sharing the photographs and story of your mission trip.