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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Citizens Committee for New York City Awards \$42,000 in Grants to Restore Neighborhoods Affected by Hurricane Sandy with Support from the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City**

*Nine months later, everyday New Yorkers are working on long-term recovery projects to rebuild damaged green spaces and clean up waterfront areas*

**New York, NY (August 8, 2013)** -- Citizens Committee for New York City (CCNYC) announced today that they awarded \$42,000 to resident-led volunteer groups implementing restoration projects in communities affected by Hurricane Sandy. Support for the project was provided by the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, in partnership with NYC Service.

Twenty-four neighborhood groups will receive grants of up to \$2,000 for projects ranging from cleaning up damaged green spaces and soil remediation projects at community gardens to neighbors helping neighbors rebuild homes and setting up resource sharing programs.

"The Mayor's Fund is dedicated to leveraging public and private resources to help meet the needs of those hardest hit by Hurricane Sandy," said Megan Sheekey, President of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City. "An important component of these efforts is working directly with residents who experienced the damage first-hand and know what is needed to help their communities fully recover."

"The funding for these award winning groups is an important part of the rebuilding process that will help engage and empower community members and volunteers to revitalize and restore their neighborhoods" said Diahann Billings-Burford, Chief Service Officer of NYC Service.

CCNYC is offering these short-term, high-impact grant opportunities because of its belief that Hurricane Sandy relief efforts go beyond the immediate aftermath. The grants support the overall capacity of volunteer groups to provide relief to impacted areas and to support specific projects that address hurricane-related damage to community spaces like waterfronts, sidewalks, school grounds, community gardens, and parks.

“The rebuilding after Sandy goes on and this grant from the Mayor’s Fund will allow us to target the neighborhoods and the New Yorkers who suffered most,” said Peter H. Kostmayer, CEO of CCNYC.

So far in 2013, CCNYC has funded 480 neighborhood improvement projects across New York City neighborhoods, totaling \$896,250. In the weeks following Hurricane Sandy, CCNYC supported resident-led relief and recovery efforts in a timely fashion, disbursing \$200,000 in grants to 70 volunteer groups across the hardest-hit areas of the city.

Each of the 24 post-Sandy relief projects utilizes local resources and local expertise. Additionally, resident-led groups in all boroughs received awards: 8 in Staten Island, 8 in Brooklyn, 4 in Manhattan, 3 in Queens, and 1 in The Bronx.

A list of the winning groups follows. For more information about these projects and for contact information for group leaders, please contact Saleen Shah at [sshah@citizensnyc.org](mailto:sshah@citizensnyc.org) or call 212-822-9566.

<b>HRG Grantee</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Borough</b>	<b>Grant</b>
BCS Coney Island Volunteer Team	Coney Island	Brooklyn	\$ 2,000
Cedar Grove Community Hub	New Dorp Beach	Staten Island	\$ 1,500
Concerned Citizens of the LES	Lower East Side	Manhattan	\$ 2,000
Coney Island Site 8 Resident Assn.	Coney Island	Brooklyn	\$ 1,567
Friends of Abandoned Cemeteries	West Brighton	Staten Island	\$ 1,250
Guyon Rescue	Oakwood	Staten Island	\$ 1,000
Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership	Stapleton	Staten Island	\$ 2,000
Inwood Canoe Club	Inwood	Manhattan	\$ 1,965
La Plaza Cultural de Armando Perez Community Garden	Alphabet City	Manhattan	\$ 2,000
Locus Point Civic Assn.	Locus Point	Bronx	\$ 2,000
Mayberry Promenade Renewal Group	Eltingville	Staten Island	\$ 2,000
New Dorp Beach Civic Assn.	New Dorp Beach	Staten Island	\$ 2,000
O'Dwyer Gardens Resident Assn.	Coney Island	Brooklyn	\$ 1,000
Orchard Alley Community Garden	Alphabet City	Manhattan	\$ 2,000
PS 15 Gardening Club	Red Hook	Brooklyn	\$ 2,000
PS/MS 114 PTA	Belle Harbor	Queens	\$ 1,720
Rekstur	Red Hook	Brooklyn	\$ 2,000
Resident Assn. of Lafayette Gardens	Coney Island, Red Hook	Brooklyn	\$ 1,745
Rockaway Women Inspired to Support & Help (WISH)	Belle Harbor	Queens	\$ 1,992
Senior Citizens Block Assn. of Mermaid Ave.	Coney Island	Brooklyn	\$ 1,260
Sheepshead Bay Community Outreach	Sheepshead Bay	Brooklyn	\$ 1,966
Shore Soup Project	Arverne	Queens	\$ 2,000
Staten Island Friends Together	Tottenville	Staten Island	\$ 1,035
Yellow Boots	Boroughwide	Staten Island	\$ 2,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>Citywide</b>	<b>\$ 42,000</b>

### **About The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York**

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City is a nonprofit organization dedicated to innovative public-private partnerships. One hundred percent of donations in response to Hurricane Sandy are being dispersed to relief efforts and organizations. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, contributions helped to support the supply and transport of emergency needs including hot food, toiletries, baby supplies, cleaning materials, warm clothing and medications for New Yorkers. The Mayor's Fund is now focused on longer-term rebuilding and restoration efforts, including sponsoring a network of housing counselors and legal service providers to help residents, mold awareness and treatment, and loans and grants for affected nonprofit organizations and local businesses. For more information go to [www.nyc.gov/fund](http://www.nyc.gov/fund) and follow the Fund on Twitter @NYCMayorsFund.

### **About NYC Service**

NYC Service was launched by Mayor Bloomberg in April 2009 to meet his State of the City pledge for New York City to lead the nation in answering President Obama's national call to volunteerism. NYC Service is meeting its goals to help more New Yorkers connect to service opportunities more easily, target volunteers to address the city's most pressing needs, and promote service as a core part of what it means to be a citizen of the greatest City of the world. NYC Service aims to drive volunteer resources to six impact areas where New York City's needs are greatest: strengthening communities, helping neighbors in need, improving education, increasing public health, enhancing emergency preparedness and protecting our environment. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/service](http://www.nyc.gov/service) and follow NYC Service on Twitter @NYC Service and [www.facebook.com/nycservice](http://www.facebook.com/nycservice).

### **About Citizens Committee for New York City**

What would it take to improve your neighborhood? Whether it's painting a mural, organizing a farmer's market, installing a compost bin, or launching a dance camp, we can help make your idea a reality. As one of the nation's oldest micro-funding organizations, we at Citizens Committee for New York City raise money from foundations, corporations, and individual donors—then award it to projects we believe in. But we don't stop there. We're also here to inspire new ideas, and to offer active, hands-on help. That means we're in your neighborhoods presenting workshops, meeting community leaders, even weeding the occasional garden. We're here for you, helping make your neighborhoods greener, friendlier, and more resilient. For more information, visit our website [www.citizensnyc.org](http://www.citizensnyc.org).