News

Carriers step up to help Sandy victims



Donations to PERF can be made:

- Online at postalrelief.com
- On your phone by texting "PERF" to 50555 (\$10 donation)*
- By sending a check made payable to "Postal Employees' Relief Fund" in
- By contributing to PERF through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) by designating #10268

Your donations are tax-deductible.

*See details on text donations on the back cover

xtended relief for the areas hit by Hurricane Sandy is finally on its way.

The House of Representatives, which angered New York and New Jersey politicians from both sides of the aisle by failing to vote on a Hurricane Sandy relief bill in 2012, in January adopted two relief packages to help victims to rebuild their lives and cities to rebuild roads and bridges.

The House passed a \$50.7 billion aid bill on Jan. 16, with 192 Democrats and 49 Republicans voting for it. This money will go to repair flood-damaged transit systems, help homeowners rebuild and repair their homes, restore and improve shoreline storm protection and replenish FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund, which provides cash grants directly to storm victims. This complements a \$9.7 billion measure the House adopted on Jan. 4 to meet flood insurance claims. The Senate passed both bills, and President Obama signed them.

Combined with insurance payouts, these funds will go a long way toward helping Americans who lost homes and property in the storm get back on their feet. But for many people, including the hundreds of postal workers affected, big gaps in relief

> coverage will remain. That's where the Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF) enters the stage.

> PERF provides assistance to postal employees who are victims of natural disasters or fires. It provides grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$14,000, depending on the total amount of qualified loss after insurance and other relief assistance, to both craft workers and managers.

"Much like letter carriers gave people hope by delivering the mail in the days after this storm—through streets covered with rubble—PERF gives hope to postal workers affected by the storm," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "They give so much to their communities, and we can make sure that our brothers and sisters get what they need in turn to make their own lives normal again."

Representatives from the crafts eligible for help from PERF, including a letter carrier appointed by NALC, manage PERF and review and approve applications for assistance.

So far, 150 letter carriers affected by Hurricane Sandy have applied for help from PERF, representing more than half of the applicants. That number should climb as more insurance claims are settled.

Letter carriers throughout the country have responded to the call to donate to PERF, giving more than \$58,000 as of mid-February.

"I'm really proud that support is coming in from letter carriers—our donations have been the most from all postal crafts so far," President Rolando said. "But applications for help also are rolling in fast, and there will be many more. This storm hit a big population center where many postal workers live. PERF can help them with expenses that aren't covered by insurance or government aid, so the requests will keep coming after those sources are used. Let's not leave them without help—please give to PERF if you haven't already."

You can mail a check to PERF at P.O. Box 7630, Woodbridge, VA 22195, donate by credit card online at its website, postalrelief.org, or text 50555 to make a one-time donation of \$10 (other charges may apply). You also can give to PERF through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC); the CFC number for PERF is 10268.

If you need help from PERF, visit its website for eligibility and application information, call 202-408-1869 or send an e-mail to perf10268@aol.com. **PR**

postalrelief.org

