

COMMUNITY

United Water employees collect \$55K for storm relief

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Correspondent

HARRINGTON PARK – Employees of the United Water Foundation, who raised \$55,000 to support those in the local community who are affected by Hurricane Sandy, were honored last week for their community action.

The company launched an employee donation campaign shortly after the storm hit. United Water employees were encouraged to donate funds toward the disaster relief effort, said Sonja Clark, executive director of the foundation.

A total of \$15,000 was raised through the combined efforts of the foundation's employees. The company then matched the amount and made an additional contribution of \$25,000, said Bob Iacullo, president of the foundation.

"Thanks goes to our employees," said Iacullo, they were "very generous."

The donation went to the Bergen County United Way's Compassion Fund. Iacullo said

they selected that fund because it reflects, "our vision to be a good partner in the community we serve."

United Way's Compassion Fund is "set up to be the safety net" or "last resort," which funds repairs that are not eligible to be covered by governmental aid, said Tom Toronto, president of United Way.

Using the donations made by United Water, the Compassion Fund will work with those impacted by the storm, to provide coverage and replace household items such as a washer, dryer or furnace. They may also hire general contractors for residents who will need walls replaced and other

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repairs. Their assistance is available 24/7, said Toronto.

Toronto said, they will "take advantage of the full amount that they raised." They have dealt with a great deal of situations and act on an immediate basis, said Toronto.

Iacullo said, while the company did well maintaining water service during the hurricane, "a

number of our employees were significantly impacted by the storm."

Those employees affected by the storm "will be referred to United Way's Compassion Fund for assistance," said Clark.

United Way has joined with United Water in the past to provide assistance and support to various community organizations in need. Clark worked closely with the United Way on the workplace campaign.

"It's wonderful to be able to have additional resources," said Toronto.

Clark said, the funds raised would go directly towards assisting "people in the community who were impacted, along with United Water employees."

"The Disaster Relief Efforts is a great example of United Water Foundation's mission and support of the community," Clark said.

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DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tom Toronto, left, of United Way of Bergen County thanks United Water President Bob Iacullo on Jan. 2 for the \$55,000 the company donated for the Compassion Fund, to help cover the cost in damages after Hurricane Sandy.