

Contact: Beth Brooks
E-mail: bbrooks.ban@gmail.com

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**BOUNTIFUL BONUS:
BRIARWOOD ACTION NETWORK PAYS IT FORWARD**

With so many in need this holiday season, members of the Briarwood Action Network (BAN) have sprung into action to help their neighbors in Briarwood and others throughout the borough. First, BAN pitched in to help those ravaged by Hurricane Sandy by arranging for NYPD/Transit District 20 to act as a convenient drop-off point for donations of clothing and other needed items.

“We recognized that there weren’t any drop-off locations for Hurricane Sandy donations in our immediate area,” said Aida Vernon, BAN’s president. “It was our good luck that NYPD/TD20 has its stationhouse at our local subway station, Briarwood/VanWyck, and that TD 20 agreed to act as a collection point for donations. We’re delighted BAN has developed a great partnership with the precinct commander, Captain Michael Telfer, and his team.” The precinct was enthusiastic about allowing Briarwood residents to use its stationhouse as a convenient location to bring donations for Hurricane Sandy relief. Anyone travelling to and from this subway stop can see the bountiful results of the BAN/TD20 combined effort.

BAN’s charitable spirit moves forward with the organization’s 2nd Annual Food Drive to benefit The Briarwood Family Residence, which is run by the Salvation Army and provides temporary housing for over 90 families. In association with Assemblymen Rory Lancman and Michael Simanowitz, BAN is asking the community to “Help Fill the Fridge!!” at the Residence. Beginning on November 25, 2012 and running through January 2, 2013, collection boxes have been placed in Briarwood stores, banks, restaurants and apartment buildings and are waiting to be filled with nonperishable food items (canned goods, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, non-refrigerated milk) and diapers.

Diane Colon, Coordinator of the Briarwood Family Residence, said, “Last year, BAN delivered over 1600 food items donated by the people of Briarwood. We’ll never forget the smiles when our children opened that pantry.”

This year, BAN hopes to double its food donation to The Briarwood Family Residence and has added a toy collection for the children living there. At the same time, BAN will continue to promote donations of clothing and other necessities for victims of Sandy. Briarwood Action Network believes that by encouraging and facilitating Briarwood residents to help others in need, within and outside Briarwood, BAN is realizing its goal: building a stronger community.

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