

Port Authority Volunteers Build Home with Habitat

Employees honor 9/11 Victims with a Day of Community Service

Employees of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey volunteered at a Habitat for Humanity Newark construction site in Irvington on Thursday to honor those lost on 9/11.



Rhonda Kears, a Senior Architect in the Engineering Department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, measures a window to be. Kears volunteered as part of the Port Authority's 'Remembrance Through Renewal' program to honor victims of 9/11.

The volunteer day is part of the Port Authority's 'Remembrance Through Renewal' program, which encourages employees to participate in agency-sponsored volunteer service projects throughout the region. Fifteen Port Authority employees worked on a house in Irvington being built by Habitat Newark in partnership with a hard-working, low-income family that will put in 400 hours of 'sweat equity' to qualify for the affordable home.

"This is an opportunity for employees to come together as an agency to honor the victims and survivors of September 11 by giving back to the region," said Jessica W. Schellack, MCRP, who represents the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Asset Management of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. "Participation in this program has grown each year. This year, we are excited to show our continued commitment to the region by expanding the program and partnering with more volunteer organizations in different communities."

Schellack commented that the Habitat Newark build day was a popular choice for the Port Authority volunteers and that more employees would have participated if there had been more spaces. As it was, the house was full of activity as the volunteers worked on installing windows and performing work on the interior of the home.

Habitat Newark has built homes for more than 72 hard-working, low-income families in Essex County. The home being built in Irvington is the second home the non-profit organization has begun outside of the City of Newark.