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## Volunteer groups join forces to help

### Point Beach alliance aids residents with Sandy damage

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POINT PLEASANT BEACH — The water had barely receded after superstorm Sandy before Maura and Chip DiCorcia and other volunteers started to help put their community back together.

When the volunteers started to dwindle as the holiday season began, the DiCorcias took a break. That's about when Toni Pecunia, another Point Pleasant Beach resident, began her own venture to help her neighbors recover from Sandy's devastation.

Now with the same goal of restoring their community, a Durand Masonic Lodge volunteer group formed by the DiCorcias, and Shore 2 Recover, a group formed by Pecunia, have joined forces.



Paul LeGrand of Beachwood, Casey Noll of Manchester and Bill Doerge of Brick replace ceilings and walls in a Point Pleasant Beach home. Their group, Shore 2 Recover, has teamed up with a volunteer group from Durand Masonic Lodge. PETER ACKERMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

They run the new Solution Center out of the Richmond Avenue lodge, where they welcome residents looking for assistance, whether it is work in their home, supplies and funds, or volunteers to help.

"Our wish is to assist people into their homes and help rebuild smaller businesses," Pecunia said. "Our ultimate goal and vision is to see the coast thrive."

Maura DiCorcia, who started the Durand Masonic Lodge volunteer group with her husband and two friends, said they are thrilled to be back to helping and working alongside Pecunia's group. She hopes word of their efforts spreads.

"We had the building, and Toni had the paperwork and stuff. I think it's going to work. I really hope in my heart it works and that we're going to be able to help people," DiCorcia said.

They invite homeowners to visit the lodge to complete a help request form that lets the groups understand the applicants' needs.

Some families can qualify for up to \$500 for supplies to help during the rebuilding process, Pecunia said. The groups can also offer help with volunteers who can ease some of the physical tasks, she said.

Alan Zeigler, 70, had been doing work on his Point Pleasant Beach home after contractors proved too costly and, at least in one case, fraudulent. He was thrilled to have the groups' volunteers help.

"These guys are great," Zeigler said, as he surveyed the rooms of busy workers. "The few pennies insurance gives you, it's not enough to make you whole."

Volunteers gave Zeigler new insulation and drywall.

"Why we're doing this is so they can breathe a little bit, so their house is warm," Pecunia said.

While the groups hope their alliance helps them help more people, they also need more volunteers and resources, from building supplies to donations, to make that goal possible, Pecunia said.