



SUPERSTORM SANDY DISASTER RELIEF STORY: ANN

On the eve of Superstorm Sandy, Ann went to bed thinking she would ride out the storm as she did Hurricane Irene in 2011. Like many Long Islanders, she woke up to a very different reality. When she arose in the middle of the night, she tossed her legs over the bed to find them resting in water, knee deep. Her bedroom, which is on the first floor of her home, was flooded, along with her kitchen, living room, and three other rooms, one of which was shared by her grandchildren on their visits. As a first reaction, she attempted to walk toward the front of the house to see what the circumstances were outside. With each step she had to push the carpet down beneath her because the water forced it to rise. She realized that it was unsafe to continue forward so she grabbed a few things and retreated to the second floor of her home, a home which she has lived for over 30 years with her children and late husband.

The next day when Sandy dissipated, Ann came downstairs to a completely destroyed first floor. Everything was ruined. Thankfully, with the help of her children and a few friends, she was able to gut her home quickly in preparation for repairs. Although she had insurance, her reliance on social security and a few small pensions meant that she could not afford to replace anything that her insurance did not cover. Vincentian volunteers from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul met with Ann in her home and evaluated her needs. They were able to give her money to replace her hearing aids, provide new beds and bedding for her and her grandchildren as well as clothes, a sofa, end tables, lamps, a dining room set, and other household items. “The expense would have been horrible to have to go out and buy everything that I needed. I would have been so in debt. I don’t know what I would have done without them,” she said.