



## Volunteers converge in Plainfield to aid storm-stricken N.J.

Quickrete facility hosts care package assembly line

Photos



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Nearly 50 people donated time Saturday morning at Plainfield's Quickrete facility to organize care packages for New Jersey residents affected by storm Sandy.



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**The Bulletin**  
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Plainfield, Conn. — Quickrete's Plainfield site on Saturday morning was abuzz with activity as more than 60 people on an assembly line filled large buckets bound for two tractor trailers.

But this was no ordinary work day at the 541 Green Hollow Road facility. The army of volunteers and employees were preparing 1,800 care packages that will be shipped to several New Jersey communities ravaged last month by storm Sandy.

"This is a couple of hours out of my weekend to put a smile on someone's face. This will be a nice little surprise for them," said Brenda Hawthorne, of Putnam, as she stocked one of the buckets with baby formula and diapers.

The supplies were separated into pallets for infants, children and adults and included goods like toiletries, flashlights, prepaid calling cards, winter clothing, nonperishable foods and toys.

Organizers wouldn't say how much the company spent, but plant manager Jayson Tanner said Quickrete's Atlanta-based corporate headquarters issued a single mandate for Saturday's drive.

"There would be no dollar amount and no restrictions. Whatever it took to fill 1,800 buckets," Tanner said. "We cleared out probably five Wal-Marts, and I had the single largest purchase ever at the local Big Y."

Quickrete operates a location in Flanders, N.J., according to the company's website.

Runs for more supplies continued even as buckets were filled. Tanner arrived at the warehouse Saturday morning with his own minivan, stuffed with diapers and juice boxes.

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"This is who showed up at 7 in the morning," said Quickrete employee Mike Crockett.

Others volunteered to drive the trucks to New Jersey, where the goods will be distributed to local churches in Jersey City, Lakewood, Northfield, Paterson and Sayreville by Monday morning.

Sydney Maurer, 16, of Lisbon, and Quinn Tanner, 6, were sorting through a mountain of diapers that were handed down a row of sorters and into one of the large yellow buckets.

"I kind of just think I would want people to do it for me," Maurer said.

Quinn was one of more than 10 children who eagerly helped their parents organize the packages.

"My school is collecting box tops for the hurricane, so I'm used to

helping," he said.

Many who contributed to Saturday's efforts had no personal ties to New Jersey, but felt a connection with the people whose homes were devastated by Sandy.

"I've been working here for a long time, and this is the best thing I've been a part of," said Justin Grimm, of Moosup. "I feel horrible for those people, and this is just a small gesture, but hopefully it makes them feel better for a time."

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