

## NYCHA Residents Receive New Furniture Thanks To Generous Donations



Mary Dávila relaxes on her new chair in her Johnson Houses apartment, courtesy of donations secured through NYCHA's Office of Public-Private Partnerships and Family Services Department for residents affected by Hurricane Sandy.

### By Zodet Negrón

“When NYCHA gave me the key to my new apartment, it was entirely furnished (with new beds, a dining room set, sheets, towels, plates, kitchen utensils and other household appliances),” said Mercedes Duran from Pomonok Houses in Queens.

“I was so happy; it was a wonderful surprise.”

After Hurricane Sandy hit, many NYCHA residents lost all of their belongings because their apartments were flooded. Some have relocated to other developments, but they have not had to do it alone. NYCHA’s

Family Services Department coordinates the relocation of these families (see “NYCHA Outreach Continues to Assist Residents Post-Hurricane Sandy” on page 1), and provides assistance with securing furniture and other household items by working with its partners and donors.

Ms. Duran and her family benefitted from a \$55,000 grant from the Robin Hood Foundation, secured through the Family Services Department’s partnership with Community Solutions. She evacuated from Redfern Houses in the Rockaways before the storm with her two children and stayed with some friends until it was considered safe to go back. She returned to

find all of her belongings damaged by the flooding and moldy conditions in her apartment. Ms. Duran was transferred to Pomonok Houses.

For Mary Dávila from Ocean Bay Apartments in Queens, getting a helping hand from NYCHA has been an uplifting experience. When she returned to her apartment two weeks after Hurricane Sandy passed, she was devastated by the water damage and moldy conditions. NYCHA located a new apartment for Ms. Dávila at Johnson Houses in Manhattan and provided beds for her and her two children, a dining room set, a sofa and a dresser. “I am so appreciative of everything NYCHA has done for me,” said Ms. Dávila. “They’ve made everything so easy-going.”

In addition, Loews Regency Hotel donated more than 2,500 pieces of furniture through The Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City. NYCHA’s Office of Public-Private Partnerships also secured donations from Sleepy’s, Rent-A-Center and Gothic Cabinets. Sleepy’s donated more than \$43,000 worth of beds and Rent-A-Center donated more than \$10,000 worth of furniture, including full living room sets and bedroom sets. Gothic Cabinet donated more than \$6,000 worth of furniture, including beds, mattresses, box spring, frames, headboards, cribs, cradles, dining tables, nightstands and mirrors.