

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

## **REBUILDING UNION BEACH**



### **“Rebuilding Union Beach” Moves Final Family Home & Authors Project Guide**

*Project Guide on Rebuilding Resiliently Now Available Online to Inform Ongoing Recovery Efforts & Share Rebuilding Lessons*

**Union Beach, NJ | October 27, 2015 – Rebuilding Union Beach** has completed an innovative grant project to design, purchase, and build storm-resistant, eco-friendly, homes for 14 Union Beach families who lost homes in Hurricane Sandy. Rebuilding Union Beach demonstrates the potential modular construction offers in delivering permanent post-storm housing to help impacted communities rebuild. The average cost of a completed home was \$220,000. Homes are elevated and incorporate resilient and sustainable feature such as cement board siding, hurricane strapping, renewable and non-toxic materials, rainwater catchment, erosion-resistant planting, and solar panels.

Today, the Rebuilding Union Beach Project Team is announcing the launch of a Project Guide and website ([www.rebuildingunionbeach.org](http://www.rebuildingunionbeach.org)) that offers guidance, analysis and recommendations for building high-quality, resilient and cost-effective housing that can enhance a community in the wake of a natural disaster.

“After the initial shock of the devastation from Hurricane Sandy I saw the opportunity to develop a resilient, cost-effective, and sustainable housing solution for our community,” said Jennifer Maier, founder of Rebuilding Union Beach and former Borough Administrator of Union Beach. “We hope that in sharing our experience completing this project we can inform and encourage the implementation of similar post-storm housing models that have the ability to shape stronger and better prepared communities.”

Rebuilding Union Beach was funded by a \$1.67 million grant from New Jersey First Lady Mary Pat Christie’s Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund and a \$770,000 grant from the Robin Hood Sandy Relief Fund. The project has received awards from the American Planning Association, PlanSmart NJ, and the NJ State Assembly. Visit [RebuildingUnionBeach.org](http://RebuildingUnionBeach.org) to view the Rebuilding Union Beach Project Guide and to learn more about this rebuilding model. Media interviews available upon request.

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#### **About Rebuilding Union Beach:**

*Rebuilding Union Beach* created an affordable model for families who lost their homes in Hurricane Sandy to return to new, cost-effective, storm-resilient, sustainable homes. The project helped homeowners maximize funds from government programs, insurance proceeds, and other recovery subsidies. The Project Guide provides a how-to manual and shares valuable lessons learned throughout the process.