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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

### NY Transit Museum Donates First \$15,000 to Rockaway Rebuilding Charity Fundraising Effort

#### *Proceeds Come From Sales of H Line Goods and Apparel*

In a ceremony at the current terminal of the temporary free H subway shuttle, Gabrielle Shubert, the Director of the New York Transit Museum, and Darren Kornblut, Manager of the Museum's online store, today presented a check worth \$15,000 to The Graybeards, a not-for-profit organization working to rebuild the Rockaways after extensive damage suffered during Hurricane Sandy.

The funds were raised over the course of one week through online sales of H Line-themed products and clothing items. Through today, the NY Transit Museum's store has sold approximately 600 t-shirts, 300 sweatshirts, 100 pins and 280 magnets, all featuring the distinctive H logo. The merchandise is currently available online at [transitmuseumstore.com](http://transitmuseumstore.com), and at the Transit Museum stores in Downtown Brooklyn and at Grand Central.



"The items are proving to be popular not only with people from the Rockaways, but with anyone who wants to show that they support restoring this decimated shorefront section of New York City," said Mark Heavey, MTA director of marketing and communications. "Sales have ramped up for this product amazingly fast, and we hope to continue to deliver more hefty checks to the Graybeards as the sales drive continues to gain momentum."

The Graybeards organization was established in response to 9/11 and dedicated to the Rockaways community.

"We have had an unprecedented response from people looking to purchase H line items which is not showing any sign of slowing down," said Darren Kornblut, manager of the Transit Museum's store.

"We are extremely grateful for every penny of support," said Steve Stathis, President of The Graybeards and owner of Boarders Surf Shop, one of the Rockaway Beach businesses severely harmed by Hurricane Sandy. "We will get these much-needed funds to those most in need."

When Sandy washed up on shore, the record breaking and destructive surge destroyed the Rockaway beach front, flooding streets, washing out the boardwalk and wiping out entire blocks. Thousands were left homeless, and businesses were destroyed. Sandy's destructive surge also submerged and washed out the tracks that make up "the flats," a 70-foot wide fenced strip of land that carries the A across the middle of Jamaica Bay between Howard Beach and Broad Channel. The extensive damage left the Rockaways without a rail link between the peninsula and Queens.