

Cooper Levenson Launches a "Life After Sandy" Disaster Relief Program

[Cooper Levenson](#), a law firm based in Atlantic City and Las Vegas, launched a "Life After Sandy" disaster relief program to help the more than 1,500 Atlantic City families with school children affected by Hurricane Sandy. Some families remain in shelters. Others have returned to homes that need repairs and are without heat. Storm water-soaked furniture, household items and clothing line the sidewalks and streets of many neighborhoods. Many children are still without the most basic of needs to return to school.

School officials have worked tirelessly on the overwhelming task of getting these children – many of whom have only the clothes they wore at the time of evacuation – back to "normal," at least during the school day. This has been a ground-up effort. The first step was to have teachers conduct an assessment to determine which families are in need. The results of that assessment were compiled, calls for donations were made, and the school district set up a distribution center where children and their families could go to replace storm-soaked items.

Kenneth J. Calemme, Jr., Chief Operating Officer of Cooper Levenson, worked closely with Atlantic City School Superintendent Donna Haye to launch a two-pronged relief effort; a day of distributing donated mattresses and furniture to families who lost the contents of their homes in the flood, and a "Fill the Truck" campaign to provide items that will help struggling families piece their lives back together. The firm contacted clients, colleagues and area business owners through a social media and email campaign, asking them to donate winter coats, hats, gloves, underclothes, school uniform shirts and pants, blankets, sheets, towels, washcloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, backpacks, pens, pencils, notebooks, and non-perishable food items.

"Atlantic City was evacuated and our office was closed for nearly a full week. Some of our staff members were affected by the storm at home as well. Despite all that, we were amazed at the magnitude of the devastation; 1,500 families with school children and estimates of 6,000 total households affected is a huge number in a community of our size," said Ken Calemme, Chief Operating Officer. "We are grateful to be in a position to help and we look forward to our children and families regaining some sense of normalcy," he added.

Cooper Levenson is a full service law firm with offices in New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Las Vegas, Nevada.

