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Mayor Fulop Launches Volunteer Initiative to Help Seniors Shovel Out After Winter Storms

“JC Shovels” Will Connect Volunteers with Seniors in Their Neighborhood; Initiative is Part of City’s AmeriCorps VISTA Program

JERSEY CITY –Mayor Steven M. Fulop announced a new volunteer initiative today – “JC Shovels” – to help senior citizens and people with disabilities in Jersey City shovel out after winter storms. The program, which will be run through the Department of Public Works and AmeriCorps staff based in the city, is seeking volunteers who will be connected with nearby neighbors in need – and then asked to shovel their sidewalks after snowfall.

“We’ve always believed that what they taught me in the Marines should apply here in Jersey City: We leave no one behind,” said **Mayor Fulop**, “Sometimes that can be as simple as helping dig folks out after a snowstorm so they can go to the grocery store or make a doctor’s appointment.”

Added **Fulop**, “The fact that this is a volunteer-based program is just incredible: Jersey City residents’ sense of community and generosity never ceases to amaze me.”

The announcement of “JC Shovels” comes on the heels of the first graduation of “United Rescue” EMTs, another volunteer program aimed at connecting someone suffering a medical emergency with the closest trained resident.

JC Shovels will be administered by two of Jersey City’s nine AmeriCorps VISTAs, staff members paid for by an AmeriCorps grant for the express purpose of developing service-oriented programming to assist those in need. Volunteers, however, will do the bulk of the shoveling.

Once the roster of volunteers is assembled, the DPW will map where the volunteers are located and connect those volunteers with seniors and others in need in their neighborhood. A number of locations will also be designated for volunteers to pick up rock salt from the City’s stockpile as well as shovels to facilitate their work.

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Anyone interested in volunteering for the program can register online at <http://bit.ly/1LIVJFh>.

ABOUT JC VISTA:

JC VISTA is a federally-funded volunteer project established by Mayor Steven M. Fulop that addresses the needs of low income residents by expanding economic opportunity, engaging youth and strengthening communities. JC VISTA is part of the AmeriCorps VISTA, a nationwide program whose corps volunteer full-time for a year at nonprofit organizations or local government agencies to carry out programs that fight poverty.

All media inquiries should be directed to Ryan Jacobs, Communications Director to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at rjacobs@jcnj.org or [201-637-7360](tel:201-637-7360) ////