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FEATURE: Japanese professor, students lend hand to New York hurricane victims

By Seana K. Magee
NEW YORK, Dec. 24, Kyodo

Just before Christmas nine volunteers -- including Japanese college students based locally -- donned suits, masks and gloves to rip down walls of a hurricane damaged home, remembering how the catastrophic March 11 earthquake and tsunami hit their homeland almost two years ago.

"I am Japanese but I couldn't help out in Japan so I was thrilled to be able to do something here," said Madoka Aramachi, a sophomore at LaGuardia Community College.

Learning how serious the Oct. 29 Hurricane Sandy was when it killed 43 people in the city, including a fellow student, she was moved to pitch in.

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