

## **GLEN OAKS AMBULANCE SQUAD WORKS THROUGH THE BLIZZARD OF DECEMBER 2010**

While many residents spent Sunday and Monday watching the snow fall, compiling last minute shopping essentials and contemplating shoveling walkways, driveways and cars from under two feet of snow, the Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps remained in service handling Emergency Medical Calls.

The Blizzard of December 26-27 was the fifth largest in NYC history, dumping up to 29 inches of snow in parts of the city. The storm began 10:30 am Sunday and went on for more than 23 hours, only ending at 9:30 am Monday. At times, snow fell at the rate of 2-3 inches per hour, with wind gusts of more than 60 mph. During all of this, the members of the Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps, like other emergency service agencies, were staffing the Glen Oaks VAC Headquarters continuously throughout the storm to make sure that the residents in the Eastern Queens communities of Bellerose, Floral Park, Glen Oaks, New Hyde Park, North Shore Towers and Oakland Gardens could receive Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance Transportation during this robust storm.

From Noon on Sunday, through Midnight Tuesday, the squad had logged over 30 calls for assistance and transported 24 to area hospitals. This was over four times the average for this same period.

The Volunteers carried and sledded those who required immediate Emergency Room visits; some for blocks, to the nearest passable street. They also responded to numerous other calls, including cardiac and respiratory emergencies, injuries, motor vehicle accidents, etc.

During most of this time, an additional Glen Oaks VAC ambulance crew was also placed into service to provide Mutual Aid assistance to the overburdened 911 system. This secondary crew helped to respond to emergency calls in the surrounding communities.

Together, some two dozen volunteers spent their time, navigating the treacherous streets of East Queens to get through in times of extreme need. You might ask yourself the question, weren't other agencies out there performing services too? That would be correct, however, the members of the Glen Oaks VAC are un-paid volunteers who spent most of the storm's intense moments, away from their families in order to provide these necessary services.

Should residents of these Eastern Queens communities require their services; the corps can be called directly at **718-347-1600**. For further business information or to become a volunteer, please call Glen Oaks VAC at 718-347-1637 any evening or weekend.