

Building Partnerships for Readiness Response Recovery



History

Following the events of September 11, 2001, New York City faith-based agencies established programs to assist in rescue, relief, and recovery efforts. Thousands of religious leaders and people of faith volunteered to serve those impacted by the disaster and the recovery worker community. This collective response was effective, but it lacked the capacity to coordinate recovery services or resources to prepare for future disasters.

NYDIS was incorporated in 2003 to meet these needs. It has proven to be an innovative model for an interfaith long-term recovery organization. NYDIS has now evolved beyond the limits of a typical recovery agency to address all phases of a disaster life cycle, including sustained advocacy, mitigation education, preparedness training, disaster planning, and recovery programs.

Mission

New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) is a 501(c)(3) faith-based federation of service providers and charitable organizations who work in partnership to provide disaster readiness, response, and recovery services for New York City.

Our mission is to coordinate, develop, and support these disaster services to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to all hazards – both natural and human-caused. NYDIS provides secular human services to faith communities and individuals alike, regardless of membership status or religious affiliation. In times of crisis, NYDIS convenes its leadership to network with government agencies and local, state, and national organizations involved in disaster management. These partnerships facilitate the delivery of services, resources, and information to religious communities, under-served victims, and impacted communities.

Dear Members & Friends

It has been five years since the interfaith relief and recovery efforts of September 11, 2001 began. In time, the improvised partnerships and innovations of those early efforts gave rise to a permanent coalition – New York Disaster Interfaith Services, now commonly known throughout the United States disaster community and beyond as NYDIS.

Over the past four years of operations, the founding partnership of four faith-based providers with a staff of one has grown into an internationally recognized network of 24 agencies with a full-time staff of 13 employees supported by a \$2.4 million annual budget. NYDIS agencies work in partnership to serve tens of thousands of New York City disaster victims with a broad array of disaster services, including:

- Innovative web-based communication
- Disaster advocacy initiatives
- Religious leader training
- Mitigation education resources
- Long-term recovery coordination and outreach
- Online recovery tools and resources
- House of worship preparedness service capacity-building
- Unmet Needs assistance and referral

We have been blessed – and we are thankful.

We thank all of you who have supported NYDIS by providing us with your leadership, your financial support, your helping hands, and your participation in our conferences, and advocacy and service programs. Next, we thank our exceptional staff for their untiring commitment to our mission and for their many extra efforts.

Over the past year, NYDIS has continued its focus on training faith communities to mitigate against the harm caused by disasters and better serve the unmet needs of those affected. We believe that better preparing religious leaders and their houses of worship will make our communities more resilient. We understand that NYDIS must serve the needs of all faiths – indeed, of all New Yorkers.

Through our many outreach and partnership efforts, NYDIS hopes that all communities of faith will be better prepared to help New Yorkers cope with the long-term impact of all disasters.

NYDIS remains committed to our ongoing recovery programs on behalf of 9/11 survivors and injured recovery workers as well as Hurricane Katrina evacuees. We continue to mobilize our members and all interested faith communities in preparing New York City for all hazards. As always, our collaborations with governmental emergency management agencies and partnerships with the American Red Cross and Human Services Council have been vital to our work. We hope this benefit is mutual.

The NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable continues to provide financial and referral resources to those who suffer from the effects of 9/11. In the past year, we more than doubled the number of cases presented on behalf of Ground Zero recovery workers with serious unmet medical and mental health needs, which NYDIS and our affiliated donor agencies continue to meet. This year we also established the NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable to financially assist those Hurricane Katrina evacuees now residing in the Greater New York area.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we thank our many program partners and donors, without whom our services for all New Yorkers would not be possible. We also thank the Board members who have given so generously of their time, talents, and wisdom.

With respect and gratitude,

Elder Betty C. Jones, LCSW
President, Board of Directors

Peter B. Gudaitis, M.Div.
Executive Director & CEO





Our Programs

NYDIS provides services through these programs – Planning, Training, Advocacy, Recovery and the 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtables.

On the following pages, partners and recipients of our programs provide in-depth analyses and personal perspectives.

NYDIS's Planning Program offers comprehensive mitigation education and inter-agency disaster planning initiatives. Over the past year, NYDIS has formalized Memorandums of Understanding with the New York City Office of Emergency Management and the Human Services Council of New York City to structure faith-based initiatives on behalf of NYDIS's membership and to address the needs of faith communities during times of crisis. Another critical achievement of the past year was the launching of HOW CALM™, our House of Worship Community-wide Asset and Logistics Management database. This secure web-based database is used to manage the communications, logistics, and assets of more than 5,300 houses of worship in New York City. NYDIS also serves on many planning groups that work to support the emergency management needs of government in its disaster planning functions.

Ken Curtin
Voluntary Agency Liaison, FEMA Region II

“What NYDIS does is simple to understand and explain, but not easy to achieve. NYDIS is a fabulous model for the rest of the nation, especially given how new NYDIS is. Nothing comparable exists anywhere else at this level of capacity and sophistication. NYDIS reflects the commitment of its founders and members, and the extreme talent of its leaders. Having already succeeded beyond anyone's wildest dreams, NYDIS is still moving forward at a fast clip, with great grace. New Yorkers' post-disaster suffering will always be far less in degree, and far shorter in duration, than if NYDIS weren't working so hard to coordinate caregivers.”

“NYDIS pulls together the various organizations in the faith sector to speak with one voice.”
-Ken Curtin

The Honorable Joseph Bruno
*Commissioner,
NYC Office of Emergency Management*

“NYDIS and OEM have a strong, cooperative relationship that many non-NYDIS faith-based organizations have begun to emulate. NYDIS has gone far beyond coordinating disaster services. It has become the central conduit for faith-based communities to serve New Yorkers in times of dire need. Recently, I gave NYDIS members an insider's look at the complexities of OEM's Coastal Storm Plan. It's always great to have an institutional partner that wants to do good things to enhance the work that government is mandated to do at critical moments. When NYDIS makes the effort to ensure that its work will dovetail with our plans, it's truly a blessing.”

Ali Gheith, MS
*Coordinator of Population-Based Resiliency,
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene*

“After 9/11, NYDIS pulled the faith communities together. NYDIS has been at the forefront of efforts to bridge the gap of misunderstanding between mental-health professionals and clergy over how to provide 'psychological first aid' to disaster victims. Through NYDIS, we were able to bring both groups together to discuss their respective strengths and weaknesses and to plan collaboration. This was a remarkable breakthrough that will benefit thousands of New Yorkers.”



Training



NYDIS's Training Program provides preparedness training to clergy, religious leaders, houses of worship, and faith-based agencies by building their capacity to respond to all hazards with spiritual care, emergency relief, and long-term recovery services. Our goal is to empower and protect New Yorkers by helping faith communities and individuals realize their own capacity to prepare, to respond, and to restore.

Over the course of the past year, NYDIS has successfully trained 1,782 individuals through conferences, forums, and training initiatives.

We also completed (1) a Disaster Mental Health and Spiritual Care Manual for religious leaders and (2) a series of Clergy Tip Sheets for religious leaders and houses of worship.

The Reverend Canon Storm Swain
Chair, Disaster Response Team
Episcopal Diocese of New York

“To sit at a NYDIS conference table with Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, Sikhs and others – all working together, all focused on the single issue of helping New York prepare for the next catastrophic event – is an amazing, inspiring experience. NYDIS’s genius is to coordinate and disseminate key information, in a user-friendly way, to faith communities. For me, the bottom line is: Were a disaster to happen tomorrow, are we better-prepared than we were five years ago? The answer is yes!”

Linda Reed Brown
Director, Domestic Disaster Response,
Church World Service

“My part in the recent NYDIS Clergy Summit was actually quite small, but being on a multi-faith leadership panel was really awesome! What a witness NYDIS makes to the community of faith when such leaders join each other on the dais in a display of such varied backgrounds and beliefs. I hope NYDIS continues modeling the fact that many cultures and faith practices can be valued simultaneously.”

Scott A. Graham
Chief Response Officer,
American Red Cross of Greater New York

“I joined the Red Cross after a Marine Corps career that included service in an anti-terrorism unit. I know first-hand that NYDIS, Red Cross and Marine responders all share two traits – first, an unshakable commitment to a critical mission; second, a selfless devotion to duty. As a nation, we’re in a progression to understand that preparedness, like charity, begins at home. NYDIS’s communication tools have been very effective in enhancing response. Its e-newsletter and website are first-rate for distribution of critical information.”

“Becoming a member of NYDIS’s Board has given me an opportunity to discuss training with many members of the clergy.”

-Scott Graham

NYDIS's Disaster Advocacy Program ensures that the concerns of faith communities and needs of disaster victims are addressed on a governmental and legislative level. NYDIS gives a voice to voiceless and under-resourced communities through advocacy, education, and – when appropriate – legislative reform. Each January, NYDIS's Board of Directors sets five Advocacy Priorities for the year to prepare, host, mediate, and organize on these priorities in collaboration with partner agencies.

Amardeep Singh, Esq.
Executive Director, The Sikh Coalition

“By becoming the first credible disaster-relief organization in the United States to recognize disaster-driven backlash against minorities as a predictable, worldwide phenomenon – and to courageously urge government officials and the wider relief community to take steps to plan for, and to mitigate, it – NYDIS has made an invaluable contribution to our collective understanding of what a disaster means, and how widespread its deleterious effects can become. NYDIS is truly paving new ground in this area.”

Brother P. Adem Carroll
President, Muslim Consultative Network

“Within the Muslim community, civil liberties are a high priority. For us, a civil liberties disaster started on 9/11, and continues today. Through NYDIS, we have come to realize that what Muslims share with other faith communities are the tragic personal consequences of disaster. I have great confidence in the NYDIS leadership. I'm impressed with how NYDIS has been so supportive of the under-served immigrants in the Islamic community.”

Joel Shufro
Executive Director, New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH)

“NYDIS has helped a wide range of New York workers affected by 9/11. Not long ago, I went down to Washington, D.C. with a NYDIS staff member to educate lawmakers about the plight of workers sickened by toxic substances at Ground Zero. I found that, to the New York lawmakers, 9/11 still felt raw and new – but non-New Yorkers, in general, had moved on. However, some vivid, first-person accounts from Ground Zero workers really opened the eyes of legislators from places like California, Utah and Idaho. It was fascinating to witness.”

“We are able to reach out to needy workers through churches and other houses of worship that are NYDIS member organizations.”

-Joel Shufro





Recovery

NYDIS's Recovery Program provides coordinative services as well as training and support to case workers, clergy, and caregivers. Recovery from a disaster is a process that takes years; accordingly, NYDIS currently coordinates several initiatives and service programs to aid those impacted by such local disasters as 9/11, Katrina Evacuees, the Queens Blackout and upstate New York flooding. These programs help unite the disaster-impacted community, facilitate the sharing of long-term recovery resources, and keep victims' needs in the public eye.

*Teresa Garcia
Development Director,
Asociación Tepeyac de New York*

"Many relief organizations have come and gone since 9/11 – but NYDIS remains, and is very serious about helping the many people who are still suffering from that tragedy. Tepeyac – which serves the needs of New York City's Mexican immigrant population – started working with NYDIS formally this year.

They support us when we run into conflicts in particularly difficult or urgent cases. NYDIS trains our case managers in how to network with hospitals and funders. We see the future of our organization within the NYDIS framework as an extension of the wonderful working partnership we've enjoyed so far."

*Mariam Mahmud
9/11 Outreach Coordinator, NYDIS*

"NYDIS provides a supportive working environment that fosters innovative thinking and problem-solving. Our interfaith leadership inherently defines NYDIS's approach as collaborative, inclusive and sensitive to our multicultural and multi-faith agency partners and the clients they serve."

*"NYDIS always responds immediately, with access to medical services or the funding that people need."
-Teresa Garcia*

*"In Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, about 2,700 displaced people from the New Orleans and Gulf areas came up to New York City and needed assistance. So, we created the Disaster Assistance Service Center (DASC) – and NYDIS was a major player in that effort, bringing personnel and volunteers as well as comprehensive recovery services and other direct assistance to the effort."
-Joseph Bruno*

The mission of Unmet Needs Roundtables is to bring together donors and case management agencies to match a client's unmet needs with available resources. Through the advocacy of case managers, donors can financially assist or offer referral resources to those impacted by a disaster, provide emergency assistance to stabilize clients' access to care, and ensure sustainable long-term recovery in cases when all other means of assistance are no longer available. NYDIS hosts and coordinates all Unmet Needs Roundtables in New York City on behalf of the not-for-profit human services sector.

9/11

The NYC 9/11 UNMET NEEDS ROUNDTABLE has distributed more than \$5 million in cash assistance and vouchers to meet the unmet material needs of 9/11 victims and injured recovery workers. More than 60 agencies have successfully secured funding for more than 4,000 clients from 22 donor agencies and corporations.

Scottie Hill
*9/11 Social Work and Advocacy Services Manager,
Mt. Sinai WTC Health Effects Treatment Program*

"At Mt. Sinai, we operate a voucher program with NYDIS to give out immediate food, clothing and transportation assistance to patients who don't have any regular compensation. The people in the particular faith-based agencies that make up NYDIS are open, flexible, kind, compassionate, non-judgmental and certainly not bureaucratic. It's easy to access NYDIS's assistance. That's a public service in itself."

Nabila Khan
Coney Island Avenue Project (CIAP)

"No words can do justice to the unprecedented contributions of the Unmet Needs Roundtable. It made a dramatic difference in the lives of clients who were in desperate need of financial assistance. If it were not for the Roundtable, we would not have been able to reach out to community members in the aftermath of 9/11. It has been wonderfully refreshing to work with a group that seeks to fulfill the unmet needs of under-served communities in a timely manner."

"A great moment for me this year was receiving a thank-you call from the New York Psychiatric Institute because we helped stabilize a patient suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder."
-Maggie Jarry

Katrina

The NYC KATRINA UNMET NEEDS ROUNDTABLE was established in August 2006 to support the unmet needs of the more than 2,700 evacuee families who have resettled in the greater New York area following Hurricane Katrina. The Roundtable provided cash assistance to evacuees as they worked towards sustainable long-term recovery, both emotionally and economically. The Katrina Roundtable distributes approximately \$15,000 per month through a network of 7 case management and 5 donor agencies.

Renee Hoffman
*Program Director, Katrina Relief
The Salvation Army of Greater New York*

"I am just so amazed at the resiliency of Katrina victims, despite their lack of resources and despite the trauma they endured. I have to commend the NYDIS Director of Katrina Evacuee Recovery, who went above and beyond for me, every time. He tapped into his resources to find exactly what I needed for my clients, and always got back to me immediately."

Michael Coomb-Smith
*A Hurricane Evacuee to New York City from
Beaumont, Texas*

"As the hurricane was brewing, I received a warning to evacuate my family from Beaumont, Texas. We packed some personal effects, climbed into the car, and drove toward upstate Arlington. A trip that normally takes four hours took three days, in bumper-to-bumper traffic. When we finally reached New York City, NYDIS made us feel welcome and accepted, and helped make our lives bearable again."

"Because NYDIS has such a huge network of people they work with, it is critical as a service provider to work with them."
-Renee Hoffman

Statement of Activities

As of December 31, 2005

	Jan-Dec 2005	Jan-Dec 2004
Revenue		
Membership and Initiation fees	81,210	36,750
Grants and Donations	809,128	1,777,309
Interest and Dividends	35,015	6,438
Investment Gain(Loss)	(16,186)	-
Other	9,537	11,425
Total Revenues	918,704	1,831,922
Expenses		
Program		
Recovery and Victim Advocacy		
9/11 Recovery	206,885	255,870
Katrina Recovery	70,179	-
Unmet Needs Roundtable		
NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable	633,156	275,856
Disaster Planning and Training	204,807	178,355
Other Funds		
Sacred City	-	1,820
Other	20,111	-
Total Program	1,135,138	711,901
General and Administrative	185,987	137,825
Fundraising	143,368	46,666
Total Expenses	1,464,493	896,392
Change in Net Assets for the year	(545,789)	935,530
Net Assets, beginning of the year	1,356,473	420,943
Net Assets, end of the year	810,684	1,356,473

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2005

Assets

Cash	70,651	971,693
Investments	701,149	226,078
Other	66,692	171,927
Total Assets	838,492	1,369,698

Liabilities

Accrued Expenses	27,808	13,225
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	46,837	89,147
Temporarily Restricted	763,847	1,267,326
Total Net Assets	810,684	1,356,473
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	838,492	1,369,698

Donors & Grantors

Donations

Acts Ten, Inc.	100
Gino Adamo	10,000
Elder Robert Arnold	50
Dimitri Bakhroushin	125
Amardeep Bhalla	150
Jerry Bilton	25
William Lee Birch	25
Laurel & Mary Lee Brown	25
The Buddhist Council of New York	250
Case Melan Group LLC	25
Judy Chen	375
Benjamin E. Curran	25
Paul Dongilli	17
Episcopal Charities of the Diocese of New York	5,000
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian	150
First Presbyterian Church	2,000
Fiscal Policy Institute	500
Futa Islamic Center	900
Kenneth George	50
The Rev. Mark W. Hummell	750
Islamic Circle of North America Relief	5,000
The Rev. Dr. Martha Jacobs	150
Elder Betty Jones	750
Kathy Adams House	250
The Venerable Bhante Kondanna	100
Barbara Le Goff	25
Lutheran Disaster Response of New York	5,000
Mennonite Disaster Service – USA	300
Gloria Mills	10
Nancy Murray	17
Muslim Consultative Network	200
UMC – New York Annual Conference	5,000
Francis J. Nyhan	750
Pfizer Foundation	500
Rabbi Joseph Potasnik	25
Presbytery of New York City	5,000
Roger Rischawy	100
The Salvation Army of Greater New York	250
Barbara Shapiro	50
Ol-Hing Shum	100
The Sikh Coalition	250
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	250
Stony Point Center	200
The Rev. Dr. Charles Straut, Jr.	75
Sunnyside Community Services	95
The Rev. Canon Storm Swain	500
Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation USA	200
United Methodist Committee on Relief	500
United Sikhs in Service of America	200
James P. Veatch	50
Lily Wu	50

Grants

American Red Cross – Liberty Fund	1,079,000
American Red Cross – Liberty Fund*	551,000
American Red Cross Sept. 11 Recovery Program	3,950
Black Equity Alliance	10,000
Chadbourne & Parke Foundation*	62,931
Chadbourne & Parke Foundation	40,200
Council of Churches of the City of New York**	5,000
Episcopal Charities of the Diocese of New York	54,054
Episcopal Relief & Development	667,465
F.E.G.S. – Health & Human Services System**	3,000
HealthCare Chaplaincy, Inc.**	1,000
International Orthodox Christian Charities	27,500
International Orthodox Christian Charities	15,000
Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services**	3,000
Lutheran Disaster Response – USA	25,000
Mental Heath Association**	2,500
UMC – NYAC Disaster Response	50,000
New York State Corps Collaboration	17,239
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance USA*	78,251
Safe Horizon, Inc.**	500
Sandler O'Neil & Partners**	5,000
September 11th Fund*	81,490
Soroptimist International of Manhattan**	2,000
Trinity Grants**	5,500
United Church of Christ – Nat'l. Disaster Ministries	25,000
United Social Services	1,100
Verrazano Rotary Club	2,000
World Cares Center**	1,100

* Multi Year Grant

** Fiscal Agent For

In-Kind

9/11 Families Association
About Face Graphics
Chadbourne & Parke LLP
Crumbs Bake Shop
Essex World Cafe
Gap, Inc.
Old Navy Stores
Lutheran Disaster Response of New York
Pathmark Corporation
Gary C. Suson – Ground Zero Museum
Jessica Weber Design

The Impact of Partnership

Congregations in network	1,503
Clergy and religious leaders in good standing	3,010
Disaster chaplains trained/credentialed by DCS – NY	64
Chaplain volunteer hours through DCS – NY	978
Clergy trained/credentialed by ICISF	122
Funding for mitigation education and preparedness	1,159,500
Funds used for local disaster response work	5,980,000
Volunteer hours on disaster response and recovery	54,288
Disaster clients served	79,005
People provided with preparedness or response training	2,735
Multimedia outreach	1,809,000

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NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Scott Graham
American Red Cross in Greater New York

The Rev. William Grant
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The Venerable Bhante Kondanna
The Buddhist Council of New York

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Council of Community Services of New York State
Human Services Council of New York City
International Critical Incident Stress Foundation
National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff (NAEIS)
National Organizations for Victims Assistance (NOVA)
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Police Department – SHIELD
Non-Profit Coordinating Committee of New York
North American Interfaith Network (NAIN)
Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster – New York City VOAD
Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster – New York State VOAD





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