



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The origami peace crane on your seat was made by Patty Jones, who worked as a Disaster Case Manager bringing unmet needs cases to the NYC Sandy Unmet Needs Roundtable. On a somewhat frenetic afternoon in the office late in December, we received these paper cranes with a gracious note from Patty, eloquently expressing her appreciation for our work. MAYA – READ QUOTE

Patty's paper cranes, along with Maya Angelou's words on the packet, reminded us of the significance of the sometimes tedious, sometimes overwhelming, sometimes frustrating work of serving in disaster - and inspired us with fresh energy to keep on mission, to keep our vision clear, and to work faithfully as a force-multiplier in concert with our many member organizations and partners.

We gather here this evening as faith-based organizations with our civic and community-based partners in human services to celebrate our accomplishments together, to honor those who have worked so effectively toward these accomplishments, and to renew our vision for the tasks before us in the coming year.

As people of faith we come together from our various traditions – be they Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim or others – called and committed to put empathy and compassion into action. Certainly we are, in this, more alike than unlike. Regardless of our differences, we work together toward our mission: to inspire, connect and provide resources for New York City faith communities serving in disaster, creating an urban environment of social justice for all. While Hurricane Sandy long ago moved off the radar screens of the weather forecasters and the news monitors and the first responders and by now even many of the rebuild organizations, NYDIS member organizations and our partners have continued to support Sandy-impacted individuals and communities to get some of their unmet needs met.

Here are some examples of what NYDIS was able to accomplish with your partnership and the resources provided by many of the organizations in this room.

Some examples...

- 1) With such partners as Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, Metropolitan College of New York, the Red Cross and United Way, NYDIS has trained over 528 disaster case managers in accessing funds for their clients through the NYC Sandy Unmet Needs Roundtable.
- 2) With 44 case manager and donor agencies ranging from the Council of Peoples Organization to Met Council to Lutheran Social Services of NY, NYDIS partnered to distribute \$8.4 M to 2100 New York City households.
- 3) With funding from the American Red Cross and the United Way, and with the hospitality of dozens of local houses of worship, NYDIS has coordinated and secured over 707 beds for 2176 rebuild volunteers contributing 113,050 hours' worth just under 3 million dollars.

- 4) With funding from Islamic Relief USA, the Unmet Needs Roundtable distributed 756 emergency food vouchers, equivalent to over 7854 meals.
- 5) Through a partnership with Home Depot, NYDIS secured significant discounts on appliances, building materials, licensed contractors and replacement furnishings for renters and homeowners.
- 6) With the New York City Office of Emergency Management, NYDIS prepared mitigation education and preparedness materials for our 2014 Evacuation Education & Flood Map Awareness Campaign for 1600 New York City congregations located in coastal flood zones.
- 7) Our corporate partners joined in NYDIS's efforts with donations of over \$148,000.

It is widely accepted that the work of long-term recovery rests primarily on the shoulders of the local community. Faith-based organizations have been and continue to be at the nexus of supporting individuals and their communities throughout the disaster life-cycle. Our sense of mission, our call, inspires us to continue serving the individuals and households in our neighborhoods and our communities, sustaining our work as well as our hope.

Most of our religious traditions teach us that we receive as we give. In the multi-faith kaleidoscope of New York City's faith communities, our service to others nearly always crosses lines of theology, of spirituality, of ceremony, even perhaps of ethics and morality. NYDIS's vision of an urban environment of social justice for all is advanced every time we as faith communities reach out together in service. And we can help one another as we help survivors transform trauma and tragedy into resilience and hope.

We share these paper cranes with you this evening as a reminder of the significance of the sometimes tedious, sometimes overwhelming, sometimes frustrating work of serving in disasters – whether as a case manager, a contractor, an accountant, a furniture supplier, a banker, a grant writer, a phone receptionist, a chief response officer, a secretary, a board member, a donor, a civil servant, an administrator, a grant report reader, a statistics analyzer, a data manager, a rebuild organization, a funder.

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We at NYDIS give thanks for the many opportunities still ahead of us in 2015 to inspire, connect and provide resources for New York City faith communities serving in disaster; and we give thanks for the dedication and commitment of our member organizations and partners, grateful for the resources you will continue to provide, both in congregations and in the disaster human services sector.

RUTH YODER WENGER
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT