



## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Meeting, January 14, 2016

As people of faith we come together from our various traditions – be they Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh or others – called and committed to put empathy and compassion into action, deploying the gifts we have received in the service of our neighbors. Diverse as we are, we work together with one 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.

Our task reminds me of the story about the mother who was putting her four-year-old to bed; as she left the room he pleaded with her not to go. His mother tried to reassure him by telling him that God would be there with him all night. The boy replied, "But right now I need God with skin on!"

Thousands of Sandy-impacted households are still struggling with damaged houses or even homelessness, some with dire economic vulnerability, some with loss of hope, some with cynicism about their prospects for recovery. I invite you into a few moments of silence to contemplate the circumstances of these our neighbors – their ongoing need for empathy and compassion “with skin on.”

May we be inspired here this evening with fresh energy to keep on-mission, to keep our vision clear, and to work faithfully together as a force-multiplier in concert with our many member organizations and partners.

NYDIS continues to lead two key multi-agency functions in Sandy recovery: supporting volunteer rebuild through the NYC Volunteer Group Housing Program, and managing the NYC Sandy Unmet Needs Roundtable (UNR for short). In addition, we are piloting the Sandy Temporary Rental Program (STRP for short) to help qualified homeowners temporarily displaced as their houses are being elevated.

Here are a dozen examples of what NYDIS has been able to accomplish with the partnership and resources provided by many in this room – civic as well as community-based and faith-based.

- 1) With such partners as Catholic Charities, United Way, and the American Red Cross, NYDIS has trained almost 600 individuals in disaster case management, qualifying them to access funds for their clients through the UNR.
- 2) With UNR donors like Convoy of Hope, The Salvation Army, and Lutheran Social Services of NY among others, in 2015 NYDIS managed the distribution of over 5 million dollars for otherwise unmet needs, bringing our total NYC Sandy UNR assistance to nearly 12 million dollars.
- 3) With funding from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, UMCOR, and the American Red Cross, along with the hospitality of dozens of local houses of worship, NYDIS has coordinated and secured over 700 beds for rebuild volunteers coming in to the City. We also produced the 2015 Hurricane Sandy Rebuild Environment Assessment, which charts the effectiveness of an array of rebuild efforts.

- 4) With the hospitality of United Sikhs, NYDIS has been subleasing flexible office space to accommodate operations since October 2008.
- 5) With support from the Mayor's Fund, the Mayor's Housing Recovery Office, the Robin Hood Foundation and others, the STRP pilot has thus far provided temporary rental assistance to two dozen households during their elevation projects.
- 6) Through a partnership with Home Depot, significant discounts on appliances, building materials, licensed contractors and replacement furnishings for renters and homeowners continue. Our total Home Depot spend to-date is \$4.8 million.
- 7) To date, corporate partners like Home Depot and American Express have joined in NYDIS's efforts with contributions totaling over \$225,000.
- 8) With New York City Emergency Management, New York City VOAD, the Human Services Council, New York State VOAD, and Citizens Corps, NYDIS continues to participate in local preparedness and mitigation planning. (We wish to thank NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for appointing Peter Gudaitis to the Hurricane Sandy Charitable Organization and House of Worship Recovery Task Force.)
- 9) With New York City Emergency Management, NYDIS trained Citizen Corps volunteers and CERT team members in Religious Literacy and Competency.
- 10) With NYC DOHMH, NYDIS provided trainings in Mental Health First Aid, a public education program supported by NYC's First Lady, Chirlene McCray, that introduces non-mental health professionals to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact and overviews common treatments.
- 11) At last year's annual meeting NYDIS proposed to increase our risk communication capabilities. Using Send Word Now, we have purchased technology that enables us to text messages to, and retrieve answers from, houses of worship and their service providers in crisis settings. We can now communicate with our board and staff and over 1000 NYC religious leaders when needed. We are committed to expanding that capacity city-wide.
- 12) Looking toward the future, NYDIS is also in conversation with one of our member organizations about reopening the 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable for the thousands of recovery workers struggling with mental and physical health impacts and other challenges who are not yet able to access the help they need through the Zadroga Act.

Our religious traditions teach us that we receive as we give. NYDIS's vision of an urban environment of social justice for all is advanced every time we as faith communities reach out together to help survivors transform trauma and tragedy into resilience and hope.

Even as many Sandy recovery programs are sunseting, we at NYDIS give thanks for the many opportunities still ahead of us in 2016 and for the dedication and commitment of our member organizations and partners. May we continue to serve our neighbors as "God with skin on."

Submitted by Ruth Yoder Wenger  
Executive Vice President

Current Board Roster

Rev.	Brian	Steadman	Evangelical Presbyterian	Resurrection Brooklyn Relief, Director <b>PRESIDENT</b>
Rev.	Tom	Vencuss	United Methodist Church	*United Methodist Church - NYAC Coordinator of Disaster Recovery Ministries <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>
Rev.	Que	English	Evangelical Christian	Bronx Christian Fellowship Church, Senior Pastor NYC Clergy Roundtable - Project Rebuild, President <b>SECRETARY</b>
Brother	Altaj	Ilyas	Muslim	*Islamic Circle of North America - Relief Chief Financial Officer <b>TREASURER</b>
Rev.	Leslie	Foltz-Morrison	Presbyterian Church USA	Presbytery of New York City <b>RECORDING SECRETARY</b>
Ms.	Cecilia	Aranzamendez	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America & Lutheran Church Missouri Synod	*Lutheran Social Services of New York (LDRNY) Executive Director for Community Services
Elder	Betty	Jones, LMSW	Presbyterian Church USA	Presbytery of New York City Coordinator, Disaster Relief Program
Mr.	Shariff	Kan	Buddhist	Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation Commissioner and Faith Corps Member
Mr.	Maninder	Singh	Sikh	United Sikhs Disaster Response
Mr.	Willie	Smith	Buddhist	Buddhist Council of New York

2015 FINANCIALS (Audited)

TOTAL INCOME 2015	\$ 2,054,428
TOTAL EXPENSES 2015	\$ 2,246,734
TOTAL ASSETS DECEMBER 2015	\$ 490,095

NYDIS is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.