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**NYDISnet for Dec. 16 2004**

# NYDISNET

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR READINESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

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Dear Friends of NYDIS:

Here is the third edition of NYDISnet--our bi-weekly e-newsletter provided as a service to our members, program partners, and the broader faith community. We hope this resource and communication tool will keep you updated about NYDIS and developments within the emergency preparedness and disaster response community.

We also hope that friends, clergy and congregations will feel free to copy and distribute any information from NYDISnet for education or use in your newsletters or worship bulletins. When appropriate, please footnote credit to NYDISnet.

Faithfully, Peter

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

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## **NYDIS Executive Director Visits Washington D.C. to Advocate for Preparedness Funding and Partnership Development**

Peter Gudaitis, NYDIS Executive Director & CEO, spent Dec. 8-10 meeting with FEMA, Health & Human Services and National VOAD staff on a quest to seek new funding opportunities and program development partnerships for NYDIS.

In early 2005 NYDIS and Citizens for NYC plan to return to D.C. to meet with FEMA and National VOAD to seek support for a joint project to train congregational leaders and neighborhood organization leaders to collaborate in mitigation and preparedness training for every neighborhood in New York City.

Anyone with contacts or potential funding sources for this kind of project should contact Peter Gudaitis, 212-669-6100, [pgudaitis@nydis.org](mailto:pgudaitis@nydis.org).

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## **NYDIS Supports Salvation Army Toy Drive for WTC Families**



NYDIS has donated \$5,000 worth of clothing vouchers from Old Navy to support The Salvation Army's holiday toy drive for WTC families. The toy drive committee will provide holiday gifts to 500 children whose families have been affected by 9/11. The Salvation Army of Greater New York remains one of the few agencies providing 9/11 long-term recovery case management services to the neediest and underserved families with significant economic, mental and physical health needs.

For information on the Salvation Army Toy Drive, go to:  
[www.salvationarmy-newyork.org](http://www.salvationarmy-newyork.org)

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## **NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Sets Upcoming Meetings**

The next two meetings of the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable will be:

- 9:30am - Thursday, Dec. 23, 2004
- 9:30am - Thursday, Jan. 6, 2005

Caseworkers who have any questions or emergency cases, please contact the Roundtable Moderator, Theresa Hui 212-669-6107, [thui@nydis.org](mailto:thui@nydis.org).

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## **NYDIS Extends Current 9/11 Transitions Support Group**

In response to the many requests of current participants in NYDIS' 9/11 Transitions Support Group for relief agency employees who are approaching a transitional period or have already terminated from their 9/11 recovery jobs, NYDIS will extend the program past the Dec. 15 ending date. Participants are being offered a one time one-on-one session with Dr. Michael Bednarski, Director of Vocation and Organizational Development at the Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute.

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## **NYDIS Offers Winter Cycle of 9/11 Transitions Support Group**



NYDIS will begin the winter cycle of its 9/11 Transitions Support Group on Jan. 12, 2005. Staffed by the Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute, the three-month program for transitioning or terminated 9/11 relief workers alternates between a series of intensive career development workshops and support groups addressing topics such as stress, challenges of ending services relationships and leaving the 9/11 community. Meetings will take place on consecutive Wednesdays at 74 Trinity Place, Second Floor Parlor, 4-6 pm.

For information or to register, contact Theresa Hui, 212-669-6107, [thui@nydis.org](mailto:thui@nydis.org) (All calls and inquiries are confidential) or check the NYDIS website at [www.nydis.org/9-11recovery/4.htm](http://www.nydis.org/9-11recovery/4.htm) or PSI website at [www.mindspirit.org](http://www.mindspirit.org).

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## **NYDIS / Members Support 9/11 Restaurant Workers Initiative**

NYDIS and LDRNY leaders among others recently signed on to support the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York's Resolution on the Restaurant Industry. ROC-NY was initially formed to address the needs of Sept. 11 victim families and displaced restaurant workers from the Windows on the World restaurant and other WTC-area restaurants. The group has broadened its agenda to include raising public recognition of restaurant workers' contributions to the city, improving working conditions for restaurant workers, and opening a co-op eatery in the near future. The proposed resolution was based on studies into discrimination and health and safety claims, and

seeks to improve working conditions not only for the sake of workers but also to ensure a better experience for customers. By offering support for this work we are showing support not only for workers, but for 9/11 survivors and victims' families.

For more on ROC-NY, visit [www.rocny.org](http://www.rocny.org).

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### **Help Available for Ground Zero Recovery Workers**

Ground Zero recovery workers enrolled in Mt. Sinai Hospital's WTC Treatment Program are eligible for food, clothing and transportation vouchers through the NYDIS-Mt. Sinai Recovery Worker Project. NYDIS has funded a \$52,000, three month pilot project with the Mt. Sinai program and its caseworkers to distribute the vouchers to needy clients.



Over 6,000 Ground Zero workers continue to suffer from medical and mental health problems, in addition to the economic and social services needs they are experiencing.

WTC responders in need of medical treatment can call 212-241-9059 for further information. NYDIS also encourages agencies and houses of worship to help get this information out.

For more information on the Mt. Sinai program, check out: [www.wtcexams.org](http://www.wtcexams.org)

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### **Dec. 31 is Final Deadline to Apply for 9/11 Insurance**

People who lost family members or were hurt on Sept. 11 in New York City, Shanksville, or Washington, D.C. have until Dec. 31 to apply for subsidized health-insurance benefits through the American Red Cross. The program offers 24 months of subsidies to cover the cost of private health insurance premiums or COBRA.

Those who qualify include: surviving spouses, partners, dependent children, and others who were covered under the deceased's health insurance, whether or not they were offered COBRA; those who sustained serious injuries because they were near the attack sites and were hospitalized for at least 24 hours; and those whose injuries resulted in a continuous 90-day disability that began before Dec. 31, 2001.

For information, go to: [www.redcross.org/pressrelease/0,1077,0\\_116\\_3640,00.html](http://www.redcross.org/pressrelease/0,1077,0_116_3640,00.html)  
To contact the Red Cross SRP, call 877-746-4987.

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### **WTC Health Registry Reports on 9/11 Respiratory Problems**

Most enrollees in the WTC Health Registry reported having one or more respiratory problems that either began or got worse in the weeks and months after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in NYC, according to the latest quarterly report issued by NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

The report, "Data Snapshot: Understanding The Heal Impact of 9/11" can be found online at: [www.nyc.gov/html/doh/pdf/wtc/wtc-report2004-1112.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/pdf/wtc/wtc-report2004-1112.pdf)

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### **News from Our Member Agencies**

- **LDRNY Organizes Toy Drive**

Many of the families affected by 9/11 are having to choose between rent, utilities, clothing, transportation, and what they might possibly be able to do for their children in this holiday season. LDRNY is purchasing \$20 gift cards from Toys R Us and Barnes and Noble to



distribute to families in need as a result of 9/11.

Providing parents with gift cards gives them the enjoyment of shopping for their own children. To contribute, send a monetary gift of any amount to LDRNY, 22 Cortlandt St. 20th floor, New York, NY 10007. Please write Toy Drive in the memo line on your check.

For more information on the toy drive, go to:

[www.LDRNY.org](http://www.LDRNY.org)

- **Report Shows Impact of 9/11 on Teachers**

A study conducted by Lutheran Disaster Response of NY, in conjunction with Lutheran Schools Association, points out that the devastating effects of Sept. 11 are still impacting students, schoolteachers and administrators. A large percent of teachers in Lutheran schools have changed professions or left the greater New York metropolitan area. This is a common scenario following a disaster like this.

To read the full story, and download the report, go to [www.LDRNY.org](http://www.LDRNY.org) and click on Headlines.

- **UMC-NY Annual Conference holds Training for Volunteers Interested in Disaster Chaplaincy**



The Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, NYAC Mission Coordinator and NYDIS board member, organized a training session on Oct. 30 for

over 30 United Methodist lay and clergy interested in certification as disaster chaplains. Presentations were made by United Methodist Minister and certified disaster Chaplain Rev. Bruce Anspach, NYC OEM Human Services Coordinator Max Greene, and NYDIS Director of Planning & Training Rev. Susan Lockwood.

- **Information Meeting held for UMC-NYAC's District Superintendents**

An information meeting on the NYAC's disaster preparedness plan and NYDIS's role in assisting partner agencies with disaster ministry was held for District Superintendents. NYAC staff member Rev. Joseph Edwoodzie presented the Conference's response structure, policies and procedures and Rev. Lockwood presented NYDIS's activation procedure and training and recovery resources.

For information on the UMC-NYAC, go to:

[www.nyac.com](http://www.nyac.com)

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## Make a Gift to NYDIS



If you'd like to make a donation to assist NYDIS in its mission of providing faith-based disaster services, [click here](#), or send a check to NYDIS at 22 Cortlandt Street, 20th Flr, New York, NY 10007. Contributions are tax deductible. It is also a great way to honor or memorialize someone and we will send an acknowledgement of your gift.

To donate on line, go to the NYDIS homepage and click on "Make a Donation":

[www.nydis.org](http://www.nydis.org)

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## Mitigation & Preparedness Corner

- **Winter Preparedness: Get Informed about Carbon Monoxide**

Winter is on its way, with folks closing up their houses and turning on heaters. These conditions can lead to higher concentrations of carbon monoxide in the home and potential harm. Carbon monoxide is present in low levels in the air from incomplete combustion from any flame-fueled (not electric) device,

including ranges, ovens, clothes dryers, furnaces, fireplaces, grills, space heaters, vehicles, and water heaters. Furnaces and water heaters may be sources of carbon monoxide, but if they are vented properly the gas will escape to the outside. The most common sources of carbon monoxide are from open flames from ovens and ranges and vehicle.

- **Mitigation: Install a Carbon Monoxide Detector**

Mitigation means prevention, softening the impact of disaster. Having a carbon monoxide detector within 15 feet of the primary entrance to each bedroom is a form of mitigation—not to mention, it is the law!

- **Response: Get the Word Out**

Below is pertinent information about the new law which is important for every New Yorker to know in order to be safe. It is particularly important for elderly and low-income families to know the dangers of using ovens and gas ranges for heat. Why not put at least basic information in your agency or congregation's newsletter or bulletin?



The colorless, odorless, tasteless, gas that can KILL!

- **What is carbon monoxide (CO)?**

CO is a highly toxic gas produced from incomplete combustion of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, gasoline, wood and coal. The major sources of CO in homes and apartments are fossil fuel burning boilers, furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces and parking garages. CO is very dangerous because it is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-irritating. CO poisoning can be fatal.

- **What are the warning signs of CO poisoning?**

The warning signs of CO poisoning are headaches, dizziness, tiredness and nausea. If you feel that you are suffering from the effects of CO poisoning or that your home may have a CO leak immediately open all of the windows and remove yourself from your home and call the Fire Department.

- **What are building owners' responsibilities under New York City's new law on carbon monoxide detectors?**

Provide and install at least one approved carbon monoxide alarm in each dwelling unit within 15 ft. of the primary entrance to each sleeping room. *This applies to all multiple dwellings and one- and two-family homes.*

File (in person or by mail) a "[Certificate of Satisfactory Installation](#)" within 10 days from the date of installation, with [HPD's Borough Code Enforcement office](#) in the borough in which the dwelling is located.

Provide and post [a notice in a form approved by HPD](#) in a common area informing occupants of Local Law # 7 requirements. This applies to non-owner occupied units in private one- and two-family homes.

Provide written information regarding the testing and maintenance of carbon monoxide alarms, including general information concerning carbon monoxide poisoning and what to do if a carbon monoxide alarm goes off, to at least one adult occupant of each dwelling unit.

Keep all records relating to the installation and maintenance of carbon monoxide alarms and make them available upon request to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the Department of Buildings (DOB), the Fire Department and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). Records for all multiple dwellings must be kept on the premises unless HPD grants permission to keep them elsewhere; records for non-owner occupied units in private dwellings may be kept by the owner.

Keep and maintain the carbon monoxide alarms or systems in good repair.

For more information, check out:  
[nyc.gov/html/hpd/html/for-owners/carbonmonoxide.html](http://nyc.gov/html/hpd/html/for-owners/carbonmonoxide.html)  
[www.prepare.org/basic/carbmon.htm](http://www.prepare.org/basic/carbmon.htm)

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### **We Recommend...**

- For Winter Weather Information, check out the National Weather Service at:  
[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)
- For information on property protection, check out the Institute for Business and Home Safety:  
[www.ibhs.org](http://www.ibhs.org)
- For a directory of programs/agencies and hotline to meet the needs of WTC victims, go to:  
[www.sept11help.org](http://www.sept11help.org)  
Hotline: 866.689-HELP
- For 9/11 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs and Hotline: 800.543-3638 (English); 877.298-3373 (Spanish); 877.990-8585 (Asian); 212.982-5284 (TTY)  
[www.mhaofnyc.org](http://www.mhaofnyc.org)