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Dear Friends of NYDIS:

Here is the latest 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 educational purposes or use in your newsletter or worship bulletin. When appropriate, please credit NYDIS as the source.

Faithfully, Peter

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

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## NYDIS Board Approves \$1.7 Million Budget & 2005 Programs

The NYDIS Board of Directors approved a \$1.7 million budget for fiscal year 2005 at its Jan. 20 board meeting. Ex. Dir. Peter B. Gudaitis reported that "We are pleased to announce that 83% of the funding needed to meet this budget is already in hand, which is a tribute to our many partners, faith-based and corporate." One-hundred percent of funding for programming is in place for the 9/11 Recovery Program, the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable, and the Office of Disaster Planning & Training. In looking to the year ahead, Gudaitis said "we have set fundraising goals of up to \$300,000 for general operating expenses and new programs." The Board also set aside a scholarship fund for under-resourced clergy to receive disaster chaplaincy training, and a \$10,000 grant to cover the 2005 AmeriCorps staff and office expenses for NYC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

For information on NYDIS programs, go to: [www.nydis.org](http://www.nydis.org)

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## NYDIS-Mt. Sinai Voucher Pilot Program Gives Progress Report

Daniel Bush, Dir. of NYDIS' 9/11 Recovery Program, reports that "The NYDIS-Mount Sinai Voucher Pilot Program for Ground Zero Recovery Workers is off to a strong start." So far, 96 patients have been assessed for assistance (of which 70% are currently unemployed) and 57 patients have qualified for assistance. In the first month of the pilot program, 165 food vouchers, 150 clothing vouchers, and 41 MetroCards for medical and mental health care appointments were distributed to benefit the 57 patients and their families. The pilot project is being made possible through a grant from Episcopal Relief and Development to assist Ground Zero recovery workers who served at the World Trade Center site and the Staten Island Landfill.



To share news or information, or to distribute NYDISnet to your agency, clergy or congregational list, contact:

The Rev. Susan Lockwood  
Director, Disaster Planning & Training  
212.669-6104  
[slockwood@nydis.org](mailto:slockwood@nydis.org)

NYDIS  
22 Cortlandt Street  
20th Floor  
New York, NY, 10007

Office: 212.669.6100  
Fax: 212.669.6101

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

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For intake, call: 212-241-9059

For more information, contact Daniel Bush, 212-669-6105,  
[dbush@nydis.org](mailto:dbush@nydis.org)

Check out:

[www.nydis.org/9-11recovery/7.htm](http://www.nydis.org/9-11recovery/7.htm)

[www.mssm.edu/cpm/wtce exams.shtml](http://www.mssm.edu/cpm/wtce exams.shtml)

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## **NYDIS to Participate in NYC OEM Pilot Training Program**



In an effort to extend the message of preparedness throughout the five boroughs, the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is piloting a train-the-trainer program and has invited NYDIS among other agencies to send five (5) participants to learn how to give the *Ready New York*

presentation as part of a campaign designed to teach New Yorkers how to become better prepared for potential hazards that may affect them. (If you are not familiar with the printed *Ready New York* guide, call NYDIS or OEM for a copy.) If you or someone you know is a good speaker with an interest in disaster preparedness, consider applying to be a trainer. OEM and NYDIS would especially welcome those with foreign language skills.

Here are the details:

**When:** Saturday, February 12, 10 am–4 pm

**Where:** 11 Water Street, Brooklyn

**How:** Contact The Rev. Susan Lockwood Disaster Planning & Training, 212-669-6104, [slockwood@nydis.org](mailto:slockwood@nydis.org)

For copies of *Ready New York*: contact NYDIS (info above) or download from OEM website: [www.nyc.gov/html/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem)

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## **Wellness Workshop for Brooklyn Imams Offered Feb. 13**

A workshop designed for Imams will be held Sunday, Feb.13, 9:30 am-4 pm, at the Muslim Youth Center, Brooklyn, NY. Participants will be introduced to Integrative Psychoeducation (IPE), an intervention that utilizes a combination of education and therapy to facilitate care. The aim of the workshop is to familiarize clergy with IPE, to enhance community strength and resiliency, and to develop partnerships with mental health professionals.

The workshop will be limited to 30 participants.

To register, contact Janet Silverstein:

Phone: 212-543-5625

Fax: 212.543-5625

Email: [silvers@pi.cpmc.columbia.edu](mailto:silvers@pi.cpmc.columbia.edu)

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## **Ongoing NYDIS Programs**

- **NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Sets Upcoming Sessions**

The NYC 9/11 Roundtable will meet:

9:30 am - Thursday, February 3, 2005

9:30 am - Thursday, February 17, 2005

Caseworkers who have questions, emergency cases or wish to

present should contact Roundtable Moderator, Theresa Hui, 212-669-6107, [thui@nydis.org](mailto:thui@nydis.org).

- **9/11 Transitions Support Group Winter Cycle Continues**



The winter cycle of NYDIS' 9/11 Transitions Support Group began Jan. 12 and will continue through March. 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 service relationships and leaving the 9/11 community. Meetings take place on consecutive Wednesday afternoons at 74 Trinity Place, Second Floor Parlor, 4-6 pm.

Registration remains open to any interested caseworker. To register, contact Theresa Hui, 212-669-6107, [thui@nydis.org](mailto:thui@nydis.org)

(All calls and inquiries are confidential)

For more info, check out: [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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## The Trauma of Terrorism Handbook to be Launched at UN

*The Trauma of Terrorism: Sharing Knowledge and Shared Care, An International Handbook* will be launched by the United Nations March 1. A panel composed of the book's authors—Sandro Galea, Danny Brom, Yael Danieli, Martin Barber, the chair of the newly established UN Directorate Counterterrorism Committee, Ambassador Javier Ruperez, and actress/playwrite Geraldine Hughes and chaired by UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Ambassador Danilo Turk, will introduce the handbook. Others who are expected to participate in the discussion are Ambassadors Andrey I. Denisov of Russia and Judith Mbulu Bahemuka of Kenya.

For information on the book or to order, check out: [www.HaworthPress.com](http://www.HaworthPress.com)

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## From Our Members and Partners

- **Episcopal Diocese Plans Service of Remembrance for Tsunami Victims**

The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of NY, and The Very Rev. James Kowalski, Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, will lead a Service of Remembrance and Solidarity for the victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 3 pm at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 110 and Amsterdam Ave. There will be meditations, prayers and a performance of Faure's *Requiem* by a combined Asian chorus from the metropolitan area. Donations will be accepted for the relief effort. The service is open to the community at large.



- **NCC and FaithfulAmerica Staff Visit Tsunami Ravaged Sites**  
National Council of Churches Interfaith Relations Director Shanta Premawardhana (left photo) and FaithfulAmerica.org Director Vince Isner (right photo) are on their way back to the U.S. after visiting



earthquake and tsunami-ravaged sites in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. They spent the two weeks listening to stories of loss and survival, passing bodies on the roadside, standing beside mass graves, attending services at houses of worship, and observing relief efforts. They will return home with the same question they asked

before they left and struggled with throughout the trip: Where is God in this tragedy? Their reflections are posted on Weblog and include their exploration of what it means to be a good neighbor in the context of tragedy, what's the right way to help the orphans, and whether it is appropriate to link evangelism and aid.

To read their reflections, go to: [www.faithfulamerica.blogspot.com](http://www.faithfulamerica.blogspot.com)

To hear Shanta and Vince's interview on BBC/PRI, go to:

[www.theworld.org](http://www.theworld.org) (Jan. 12)

For more info, go to: [www.councilofchurches.org](http://www.councilofchurches.org) or

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

- **Tsunami Fundraising Concert Set For Feb. 14 at Riverside Church**



Twenty-year-old Amali Premawardhana is a second year music student at Manhattan School of Music. Her parents, The Rev. Dr. Shanta Premardhana and Dhilanthi Fernando, emigrated to the US in the early 80's from Sri Lanka. Wanting to help

relief efforts following the tsunami, Amali has galvanized support from the music community and has organized a fundraising concert for Monday, Feb. 17, 7 pm, at Riverside Church, 120th and Riverside Dr. The concert is being jointly sponsored by the National Council of Churches and Riverside Church. Donations will go to Church World Service and its relief efforts.

For information/tickets, go to: [www.yesisaworld.org](http://www.yesisaworld.org)

For information, go to: [www.theriversidechurchny.org](http://www.theriversidechurchny.org), [www.councilofchurches.org](http://www.councilofchurches.org), [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)

- **Ewoodzie of NYAC Visits South Asia**



The Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, Conference Mission Coordinator of the NY Annual Conference of the

United Methodist Church and NYDIS board member, has been touring parts of South Asia with a contingent of the United Methodist Church. He is expected back in NY later this week with his report.

- For more information on the Tsunami Relief Efforts, please visit our site at: [www.nydis.org/resources/7.005.htm](http://www.nydis.org/resources/7.005.htm)

## WTC Health Registry Releases Fifth Quarterly Report

On Nov. 22, 2004, the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene released its fifth quarterly report on data collected as part of the World Trade Center Health Registry (WTCHR). This report is the fifth in a series providing updates on characteristics of WTCHR enrollees, and it is the first to contain information on physical and mental health conditions reported by enrollees.



Enrollment for the Registry ended in Nov. 2004, and registry staff completed interviews with over 70,000 enrollees.

Check out "Data Snapshot: Understanding the Health Impact of 9/11" at: [www.nyc.gov/html/doh/pdf/wtc/wtc-report2004-1112.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/pdf/wtc/wtc-report2004-1112.pdf)

If you are an enrollee in the WTCHR and wish to update to your contact information, please visit [www.wtcregistry.org](http://www.wtcregistry.org) (click on the box "Update Contact Info") to submit your new information.

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## Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC offers 9/11 Mentoring Program



The 9/11 Together We Stand Program provides long-term help for children who lost a parent/close relative in the World Trade Center attacks. Professionally supervised, caring, adult mentors are matched with a child for a minimum commitment of one year, with the average being three.

All matches are the same gender, women are matched with girls and men are matched with boys. Bigs and Littles meet in their own communities, spend 4-6 hours, twice a month, participating in recreational, educational and cultural activities that they choose together. Experienced social workers are there to provide support and professional guidance. The program is for children, 6-17 years old, available in Manhattan, Queens, Bronx & Brooklyn and is FREE of charge. The Program also offers monthly group outings for participants, in order to provide the opportunity for socialization.

To learn more about becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, or to refer a potential Little, please contact: Lilli Goldberg, Senior Program Coordinator, 212.994.7743, [lgoldberg@bigsny.org](mailto:lgoldberg@bigsny.org). For information, check out: [www.bbbsny.org/september11.cfm](http://www.bbbsny.org/september11.cfm)

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## 9/11 Recovery and Resilience Resources

- **Where to Refer 9/11 Victims for Case Management**

Over 80 social services agencies providing resources and case management for 9/11 victims have closed their operations. The following agencies are the last to continue to have case management capacity and the ability to service new clients.

**American Red Cross**

Call Center: 877-746-4987

Will pre-screen callers and make referrals to case management agencies providing client services

**Catholic Charities – Archdiocese of New York**

Julie Andrade: 212-371-1011 ext. 2096

**Catholic Charities – Diocese of Brooklyn (and Queens)**

Lester Szymanski: 718-337-6590

**Islamic Circle of North America - Relief**

General: 718-523-5100

Special Needs and Referrals for mental health related cases

**Lutheran Social Services – Project Life**

General: 800-729-9209

Elba Felix/Marc Herstein: 212-748-3521 / 3520

**Safe Horizon**

Toll Free Hotline: 866-689-HELP (4357)  
Will pre-screen callers and make referrals to case management agencies providing client services.

**The Salvation Army World Trade Center Recovery Program**

Diana DoSantos: 718-523-3315 ext. 15  
Email: [diana\\_dosantos@salvationarmy-wtc.org](mailto:diana_dosantos@salvationarmy-wtc.org)  
**United Methodist Committee on Relief**  
General: 212-870-8988  
Will accept new clients until 2/28/05

- **Where to Refer 9/11 Victims for Mental Health Services**

There are a number of services readily accessible for persons who have been impacted emotionally by 9/11 and would benefit from individual or group counseling and support. Below is a list of current programs and contact information.

**Islamic Circle of North America - Relief**

General: 718-523-5100  
Referrals for mental health related cases

**Mental Health Association of NYC**

General: 800-LIFENET (800-543-3638)  
Spanish: 877-AYUDESE (877-298-3373)  
Asian: 877-990-8585

[www.9-11mentalhealth.org](http://www.9-11mentalhealth.org)

Provides financial assistance for treatment to downtown residents, rescue and recovery workers, those who lost a family member, students attending nearby schools, and anyone who worked below Chambers Street or was in the area on 9/11. Funded by the American Red Cross September 11 Recovery Program and administered by the Mental Health Association of New York City.

**Safe Horizon 9/11 Counseling and Support Services**

Emily Lohman: 212-729-5513

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

Confidential counseling services, free or sliding scale, available to anyone affected by events of 9/11, All services are available by appointment at Family Assistance Center, 575 Lexington Ave, 9th Flr, NYC.

- **Child and Adolescent Trauma Treatment Services (CATS Program)** - provides mental health treatment and services to children and adolescents, ages 7-18, affected by trauma, domestic violence, community violence, or physical/sexual abuse. Contact Karen Manasse, 718-928-6992
- **Counseling Center** - NYS-licensed mental health clinic in downtown Brooklyn specializes in meeting the complex needs of individuals and families who have been victims of crime and abuse or impacted by a traumatic event such as 9/11. Qualified teams of multi-lingual licensed mental health professionals and psychiatrists staff the center.
- **Family Assistance Center 9/11 Counseling and Support Services** - offers counseling and support groups for family members of victims, those injured, evacuated, or displaced and anyone who witnessed the events of 9/11.
- **Project Rescue & Recovery** - provides mental health and psychiatric services to any staff or volunteer involved with 9/11 rescue and recovery efforts and their families. Call 347-328-8110 and ask to speak to a Project

Rescue & Recovery staff member.

- **Safe Horizon 9/11 Recovery Programs** - provide crisis intervention, supportive case management and mental health services to anyone affected by events of 9/11. Services are available to adults, children, families and communities.
- **Safe Harbor at the High School of Economics and Finance** - provides help to students, parents and school staff to cope with the violence, victimization and trauma of 9/11. Contact Stephanie Acruni, 718-624-2111 ext. 30.
- **September 11th Support Hotline** - provides information, support and referral to mental health and case management services for individuals affected by 9/11. Service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Bilingual staff and interpretation services are available. Call: 866-689-HELP (4357).

#### **St. Vincent WTC Healing Services**

General: 212-346-2482

Chinese speaking: 646-286-2686

Offers free and confidential counseling and support services for adults, adolescents, and children who have been impacted by 9/11, located at 170 Broadway Suite 1208, New York, NY 10038

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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 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**

What is **MITIGATION** anyway? Is it something that birds or humans do? The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines mitigation as:

- Any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effect;
- Any ongoing effort to lessen the impact of disaster;
- The cornerstone of emergency management.

**MITIGATION** can:

- Fortify your home and property
- Help houses of worship, agencies, businesses, and industry survive disaster
- Reduce the cost of response
- Reduce pain and suffering

