



October 3, 2005

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR
READINESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY**

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DEAR FRIENDS OF NYDIS:

Welcome to **NYDISnet**, our bi-weekly e-newsletter. We hope this resource will keep you updated about the work of NYDIS and developments in disaster readiness, response and recovery initiatives here in New York City. If you have some news to share or an upcoming event to publicize please contact slockwood@nydis.org.

When an emergency situation arises in New York City - our office will send out a **NYDISnet ALERT** to all subscribers. The alert will include all official information available through the NYC Office of Emergency Management and news from our members and partners.

Please feel free to copy and distribute any information from **NYDISnet** that you find helpful. If you would like to distribute **NYDISnet** to your agency staff or faith community leaders please let us know - we're happy to provide that service free of charge.

Faithfully, Peter

PETER B. GUDAITIS, M.DIV.
Executive Director & CEO

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slockwood@nydis.org

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NYDIS NEWS AND EVENTS

■ **St. Vincent de Paul & DOHMH Join NYDIS Board**

On Sept. 22, NYDIS' Board of Directors welcomed to membership the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a highly regarded national



Roman Catholic social services and disaster response agency. Vincent Reilly, Executive Secretary of the society's Manhattan based chapter, will be serving on the NYDIS board. The Board also approved the



appointment of Ali Gheith, Resiliency Coordinator in the Office of Mental Health Disaster Preparedness at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He will serve on the NYDIS board as an advisory member.

For more info on NYDIS' Board of Directors, go to:

www.nydis.org/about/8.php

■ **SAVE THESE DATES!**

● **NYDIS to host Jazz Benefit Concert**

A Jazz for Peace Concert to benefit NYDIS and its programs will be held Wednesday, Nov. 9, 6:00-9:00PM in Synod House on the grounds of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine at 110th & Amsterdam Ave.

● **NYDIS to hold 2005 Annual Meeting**

NYDIS will hold its Third Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 6

pm, in the rooftop pavilion at NYU's Kimmel Center on Washington Square Park.

For details on either upcoming event, check out our website at: www.nydis.org

■ NYDIS & New Yorkers Assist Katrina Evacuees

As of Sept. 30, the American Red Cross in Greater New York had registered over 1,200 households representing an estimated 1,500 evacuees who have relocated to NYC because of Hurricane Katrina, and the number could reach 3,000. A majority of the NYC evacuees are here because of a connection with family or friends and are interspersed throughout the five boroughs. However, some evacuees chose to be airlifted out or made their own way here in the hopes of employment and are staying in hotels and YMCA's in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens.



In response to the influx of Katrina evacuees, the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) opened a Welcome Center and Disaster Assistance Service Center (DASC) in Harlem on Sept. 15 to assist NYC-based Hurricane Katrina evacuees with services. Approximately 900 families had been served at the end of last week.

NYDIS has been actively coordinating with OEM's human services planning team and has assumed the oversight of two operational needs on behalf of our members.

● NYDIS coordinates DASC Exit Interviews

NYDIS Recovery Director Maggie Jarry and AmeriCorps Member Cindy Katz have coordinated and trained volunteers to conduct Exit Interviews of every evacuee family that is processed through the DASC (Disaster Assistance Service Center). Volunteers are recruited and given a DASC orientation by New York Cares. The exit interviews assure each family has accessed all the services offered at the DASC and also identifies each evacuee's unmet needs. The information collected will be used by the Human Services Council, NYDIS and OEM to determine what long-term recovery programs will be implemented to help our new neighbors from the Gulf States achieve sustainable recovery in our community. In the short-term NYDIS uses the information to coordinate relief services with our members and to communicate about donation needs.

If you would like to volunteer to do exit interviews at the DASC, please contact:
New York Cares
www.nycares.org



● NYDIS opens Katrina Evacuee Clothing Mart

NYDIS accepted an invitation by the NYC OEM and the Mayor's NYC Clothing Bank to support the distribution of new clothing New York City's Katrina evacuees. With volunteers from various faith communities and clothing from the Mayor's Volunteer Center, NYC Clothing Bank, the Salvation Army and World Vision a self-shop clothing mart opened at Riverside Church on Thursday, Sept. 22, and served over 300 evacuees in seven days. **Starting Monday, Oct. 3 the Clothing Mart will be open Monday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm at St. Peter's Roman**

Catholic Church at Church and Barclay Streets. Evacuees must have registered at the ARC or DASC and have a referral form to use the Clothing Mart. The Katrina Evacuee Clothing Mart will remain open as long as the **DASC at 80 Centre St.** ([map](#)) is operational. The DASC is open Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **NYDIS hires Gili Chupak as Katrina Relief Coordinator**

With a grant from the Chadbourne & Parke Foundation NYDIS has hired a full-time Katrina Relief Coordinator to assist in coordinating the Clothing Mart and other unmet needs programs. Formerly Gili was a manager of the 9/11 Phonebank at Safe Horizon and is a graduate of Milano at the New School.

If you would like to support our relief work, please contact:

Gili Chupak

212-669-6106

KatrinaRelief@nydis.org

- **Special Thanks to Riverside Church & Our Volunteers**

Thanks to the Riverside Church for hosting us during our first week of operation, to Board Member Rev. Martha Jacobs for setting up The Riverside Church site, to Rev. Barbara Stout, from Cathedral Community Cares who coordinated on-site operations at Riverside, and a special thanks to Rev. Susan Lockwood, who created the project and directed our start-up.

We'd Also Like to Thank:

The volunteers, those who provided expertise, and those who made clothing donations:

The Rauschenbush Center at Metro Baptist Church, Cathedral Community Cares, Episcopal Charities, the Harlem Mennonite Church, Hebrew Union Seminary, both Lutheran Church Synods, the St. Mary's Episcopal Church, the New Seminary, One Spirit Seminary, Morningside Quaker Meeting, Salvation Army, Union Seminary, and our NYDIS board members.

Cash and In-kind donations were provided by:

Chadbourne & Parke Foundation, Lord & Taylor, NYC Clothing Bank and a number of individual contributors.

- **9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Updates**

- **In-Service Training for Case Workers**

In-Service Training is required for case workers who have never presented a case at the Roundtable, and is recommended as a refresher for experienced case workers who have previously presented cases.

- 9:30-11:30 am at NYDIS - **Tuesday, October 11**
- 9:30-11:30 am at NYDIS - **Tuesday, October 25**



- **Next Meetings of the Roundtable**

The NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable brings together donors with agencies providing case management to 9/11 victims. Case Workers who would like to present a case must sign-up by Friday prior to the meeting of the Roundtable.

- 9:30 am - **Tuesday, October 13**
- 9:30 am - **Tuesday, October 27**

To sign up for In-Service Training or to present a case, contact:
Maggie Jarry, Moderator
212.669.6105
mjarry@nydis.org

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COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

■ Katrina Evacuee DASC Relocates

The Hurricane Katrina Evacuee DASC (Disaster Assistance Service Center) operated by the New York City Office of Emergency Management has relocated to 80 Centre Street ([map](#)). The DASC is open Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Spread the word.



For more information and directions to the DASC:
www.nyc.gov/html/oem/home.html

■ Human Services Council-United Services Group Activates



Michael Stoller and his staff at the HSC have been coordinating the human services relief agencies and have mobilized the USG leadership to begin to develop a plan for case-management services. Hayyim Obadyah has been hired as Disaster Response Liaison for coordinating the work of human services providers who are assisting people impacted by Hurricane Katrina who are in New York. In addition, Ruthlyn Noel, the HSC Senior Policy Analyst, has been reassigned to Katrina response and recovery, and to related disaster preparedness and USG work.

For more information contact:
Hayyim Obadyah
(212) 836-1618, or by email at:
Obadyahh@ujafedny.org

Or, Ruth Noel
(212) 836-1644, or by email at
Noelr@ujafedny.org

■ How Can You Help New York City's Katrina Evacuees?

● Get the word out

Please use your house of worship or agency staff to alert all Katrina Evacuees arriving in New York City about the importance of registering with the Disaster Assistance Service Center for services:

80 Centre Street (Worth & Centre) - Manhattan ([map](#))
Open Monday-Saturday, 8:30 am-7 pm; Sunday, 10 am-5 pm

- **Make a donation to one of our member/partner agencies** by clicking on the scroll bar article "Hurricane Katrina Relief Funds" on our website at www.nydis.org

- **Donate to NYDIS' Katrina Evacuee Relief Program** by

clicking on "[Make a Donation](#)" and select Katrina Evacuees Fund in the drop down menu.

Or, send a check to:
New York Disaster Interfaith Services
22 Cortlandt St., 20th Floor
New York, NY 10007
write "Katrina" on the memo line

We are a 501(c)(3), contributions are 100% tax deductible.

- **Pray** for the evacuees, for others who are dislocated in the Gulf Shore States, for those who hear their stories and bear witness to their suffering, for those who are working in rebuilding and recovery efforts, and for all those in positions of leadership - that they might do all within their power to create the conditions for healing and hope.
- **Volunteer** with New York Cares or with NYDIS to serve at the DASC or the Katrina Evacuees Clothing Mart.

To volunteer contact:

www.nycares.org
KatrinaRelief@nydis.org

- **Donate NEW clothes or NEW household goods to the Clothing Mart.** We need warm clothing such as sweaters, coats and jackets, gloves and scarves for women, men, and children in all sizes. Especially needed are men's suits, long-sleeve casual and dress shirts, casual and dress pants in all sizes but especially sizes 30-38; Women's suits and separates, casual and dress pants in all sizes but especially sizes 10, 12, 14, and extra large; undergarments in all sizes.

ALL GOODS DONATIONS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED BY PHONE - UNSOLICITED DONATIONS WILL NOT ACCEPTED BY US.

To donate, contact:

Gili Chupak
212.669.6106
KatrinaRelief@nydis.org

■ Legal Information for Evacuees Relocating to NYC

- **Legal Hotline**

The City Bar Justice Center has set up a hotline to field calls from persons who have relocated to the New York area from the hurricane-stricken region and have law-related questions or problems.

Staffed: Monday-Friday, 10 am-6 pm.

English: 212.626.7373

Spanish: 212.626.7374

Email: katrinahelp@nycbar.org

- **Legal HelpDesk at the Disaster Assistance Service Center (DASC) 80 Centre Street Location**

As a member of the NYC VOAD Legal Group, the City Bar Justice Center is coordinating a Legal Help Desk at the DASC staffed by volunteer attorneys from firms. The evacuees assisted at the

Legal Help Desk will be asked whether they would like to be assigned to a volunteer facilitator. Legal Services for NYC and the Legal Aid Society have agreed to make a staff attorney available to serve as back-up and provide direction to volunteers staffing the Help Desk as well as those who act as facilitators.

- **Policy Issues**

The Association has set up a number of coordinating groups to address substantive legal issues emanating from the Katrina disaster and the recovery effort. These areas are being coordinated as follows:

Bankruptcy - The Bankruptcy and Corporate Reorganization Committee

Alan Kornberg, Chair
(212) 373-3000

Civil Rights - The Civil Rights Committee

Sidney Rosdeitcher, Chair
(212) 373-3238

FEMA (including individual and small business assistance)

Kevin Curnin
(212) 806-6459

Immigration

Saralyn Cohen
(212) 848-8722

Insurance

Jeannine Chanes
(212) 785-6543

Public Benefits - The Social Welfare Committee

Bob Bacigalupi, Chair
(212) 736-3465

- **National Website**

ProBono.Net, the American Bar Association (ABA), Legal Services Corporation (LSC), and the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) have collaborated to address the problem of Gulf Coast residents not being able to afford legal assistance and not knowing where to get legal assistance. The groups have launched "Katrina Legal Aid Resource Center," a web-based clearinghouse of legal aid, pro bono and public defender information for persons affected by the hurricanes and the lawyers and advocates helping them. The site also includes a link to the ABA's website through which attorneys can sign up to volunteer on Katrina-related projects.

www.katrinalegalaid.org

- **Volunteer Opportunities**

The City Bar Justice Center has reached out to other non-profits in NYC who are involved in Katrina-relief efforts to find out whether organizations need volunteer attorneys. These opportunities will then be sent out to attorneys who expressed interest in Katrina-related pro bono opportunities.

For more info or to volunteer, contact:
Kwanza Butler

FROM OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

- **CBS2 Broadcasts Feature on Spiritual Caregivers Oct. 2**



NYDIS Executive Director Peter Gudaitis, Board Member Rev. Dr. Chick Straut, and Planning & Training Director Rev. Susan Lockwood were videotaped in a group meeting facilitated by Rev. Dr. Will Ashley, Executive Director of the Council of Churches' Care for the Caregiver Interfaith Project. Rabbi Stephen Roberts, former President of Disaster Chaplaincy Services is also prominently featured in a separate interview. The taping was part of an interfaith special entitled *Spiritual Caregivers: In Those Moments of Tragedy* that aired Sunday, Oct. 2 at 2 pm on CBS2 – a tape will be made available in NYDIS' library.

For more info, go to:

www.interfaithbroadcasting.com/rc.aspx

- **BPGNY/Full Circle Health Provide MH Treatment for Evacuees**

Black Psychiatrists of Greater NY and Associates are working with Full Circle Health and faith-based communities to provide treatment for Hurricane Katrina evacuees in NY and NJ.

For more info, contact:

Phyllis Harrison-Ross

phrmd@nyd.rr.com

www.bpgny.com



- **Father David Kossey Assists with Katrina Response**

NYDIS Board Member Father David Kossey has just returned from Biloxi, MS, where he was assisting International Orthodox Christian Charities Katrina Response effort. IOCC is beginning to turn its focus from relief to long-term recovery efforts.



- **Star NY Offers Training on Staten Island**



Ruth Wenger of the NY office of STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness & Resiliency) will be joined by NYDIS Staff Peter Gudaitis and Susan Lockwood in offering a presentation on community preparedness and peacebuilding on Monday, Oct. 10, 8 pm, at Beacon Light Lodge, 236 Main St., Staten Island.

For more information, contact:

Beacon Light Lodge

917.968.5251

Ruth Wenger

STAR NY

212.227.8484

www.emu.edu/ctp/star-intro.html

PREPAREDNESS CORNER

■ New York City Disaster Preparedness Information



Information and preparedness resources are available at:

www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/readynewyork/home.html

■ Disaster Can Strike Quickly and Without Warning: Make a Plan From The American Red Cross

www.redcross.org



During an emergency, the more you have planned ahead of time, the calmer and more assured you and your family will be. These six steps will help you through the process:

Talk

Talk with your family about disasters that can happen where you live.

Plan

Plan where to meet after a disaster. Choose two places:

- Right outside your home, in case of a sudden emergency such as a fire.
- Outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate your neighborhood.
- Ask an out-of-town friend to be your "family contact". After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact's phone number.
- Find out how to care for your pets. Many shelters do not allow them because of health regulations.

Learn

Each responsible family member should learn how and when to turn off utilities such as electricity, water and gas. Ask someone at the fire department to show you how to use the fire extinguisher you store in your home.

Check supplies

- Review your disaster supplies and replace water and food every six months.
- Check batteries in smoke alarms every year and make sure one is installed on each level of your home.
- Check if you have adequate insurance coverage for each disaster.

Tell

Tell everyone in the household where emergency contact information is kept. Make copies for each member of the family to carry with them.

Tell your children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Medical Services number for help. Post emergency telephone numbers by phones.

Practice

Conduct fire drills and practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on a map in case main roads are impassible or gridlocked. Practice earthquake and tornado drills at home, school and work. Commit a weekend to update phone numbers, disaster supplies and review your plan with everyone.

Chemical or Airborne Hazards

When there is concern about a potential exposure to a chemical or other airborne hazard, local officials will advise you to "shelter-in-place." This is unrelated to taking shelter on the lowest level of your home in case of a natural disaster like a tornado. To shelter-in-place:

1. Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
2. Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
3. Close the fireplace damper.
4. Get your disaster supplies kit and make sure the radio is working.
5. Go to an interior room without windows that is above ground level. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air, and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed.
6. Using duct tape, seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room.
7. Listen to your radio or television for further instructions. Local officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN DISASTER SERVICES

- International Orthodox Christian Charities seeks an MSW for several weeks of full-time employment in Biloxi, MS, to help Holy Trinity Orthodox Church parishioners recover from Hurricane Katrina. Travel, and modern accommodations will be provided, as well as a suitable per-diem.

For info, call:
Rev. David Kossey at 212-674-1066
IOCC is on the web at:
www.IOCC.org



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WE RECOMMEND...

- For a detailed run down of immigrant/Katrina issues, go to: www.ilw.com/immigdaily/news/2005,0921-crs.pdf
- Donation: Boon Or Burden? Spontaneous donations saved countless lives immediately after Hurricane Katrina - but now they're starting to pile up. NYDIS Executive Director Peter Gudaitis is quoted.

Read the full story at:
www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=2829

- Disaster relief organizations and government agencies are turning to DollarDays International, a premier Internet-based product wholesaler to small businesses and local distributors, to stretch their budgets and provide basics to hurricane victims.

For more info, go to:

www.dollardays.com

- For the latest on disaster features and information on Katrina and other disasters, go to:
www.disasternews.net
- To see what various faith traditions are doing to respond to Hurricane Katrina, go to:
www.pluralism.org/news/index.php

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MAKE A GIFT TO NYDIS

Order Our 9/11 Recovery and Ground Zero Tour CD



It's not too late to order from NYDIS the newly released CD - [Courage: A Pilgrim's Walking Tour of Ground Zero](#). Produced by Courtney Cowart who was a volunteer at St. Paul's Chapel after 9/11, the CD accompanies the listener through a journey at Ground Zero and includes not only walking directions, a map, and identification of key points on the landscape, but also provides first-person stories by participants who worked tirelessly in the recovery effort and have struggled with the pain and suffering of the experience.

The CD is enhanced with music by acclaimed songwriter and singer Beth Nielsen Chapman and Emmy award-winning musician, composer and producer Gary Malkin.

Proceeds from the sale of the CD support NYDIS' disaster readiness, response and recovery initiatives.

To order *Courage: A Pilgrim's Walk of Ground Zero*:

Order online at www.nydis.org/visitnyc/5.php

Call: 212-669-6100

Cost: \$15 per CD + \$2 shipping and handling

MAKE A DONATION TO NYDIS ONLINE:

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 Fl., New York, NY 10007. NYDIS is a 501(c)(3) corporation and contributions are 100% 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

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