



NET

November 10, 2005
Katrina Evacuee Special Edition

**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

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Executive Director & CEO

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■ **EMM-NYDIS Launch Evacuee Resettlement Program**

NYDIS in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) is launching a resettlement program for Katrina Evacuees who have relocated to NYC. The program will match evacuees with local houses of worship of all faiths that commit to offer housing and employment assistance as well as personal contact and moral support. NYDIS and EMM will also provide training and support to houses of worship and families throughout the resettlement process.

The sponsorship program is congregationally based and requires the formation of a sponsoring team and a minimum commitment of three months. Many of the evacuees will receive housing and other government assistance, but may need gap financial assistance, help with rental deposits, clothing and household items.

The goal is to match 100 evacuee households with sponsoring houses of worship. Of special concern are undocumented immigrants who will be evicted from hotel occupancy Dec. 1 because they do not qualify for FEMA assistance programs.

■ **How to Sign up, Get Trained, Obtain Information**

Any house of worship already sponsoring Katrina evacuees that would like training and support, any house of worship interested in participating in the EMM-NYDIS sponsorship program, any house of worship simply interested in gathering more information is invited to attend a training / information meeting on either of the following dates:

- **Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2:30-5 pm**
Marble Collegiate Church
1 W. 29th St @ 5th Ave
Manhattan
- **Wednesday, Dec. 7, 9:30-Noon**
The Greater Allen Cathedral of NY
110-31 Merrick Rd

Jamaica Queens

We do ask that you register for either training meeting in one of the following ways:

- **online** - www.nydis.org
- phone - 212.669.6100
- email - ckatz@nydis.org
- fax - 212.669.6101

For more information or questions, please contact:

The Rev. Susan Lockwood
212.669.6104
slockwood@nydis.org

Houses of worship may register for the sponsorship program at any time through EMM:

- email - EMM@episcopalchurch.org
- phone - 212.716.6347

■ Katrina Evacuee Information

- **The unprecedented tragedy of Hurricane Katrina has uprooted 1.5 million people from their homes, livelihoods, families, and neighborhoods.**
- **Over 5,000 evacuees have relocated to New York State, and an estimated 2,700 households are currently living in NYC, with approximately 300 evacuees living in hotels in Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn.**
- **Of Katrina evacuees relocated to NYC: two-thirds are single, 200-300 are families with children, 80 are families with school aged children, 20% are undocumented immigrants.**
- **Many came to our city with nothing more than the clothes on their back.**

■ Information on Episcopal Migration Ministries

For nearly 60 years, the Episcopal Church through Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) has provided a way for Episcopalians and people of many faiths to minister to the uprooted. Historically, EMM has supported refugees through resettlement. Increasingly, their network engages in outreach both at home and abroad on behalf of refugees, displaced persons, and immigrants.



For more info, go to:

www.episcopalchurch.org/emm

■ NYDIS Continues at DASC, Closes Clothing Mart

In terms of the other two components of NYDIS' Katrina Relief program, NYDIS continues to staff the Disaster Assistance Service Center's

(DASC) exit interview table and to work with the Human Services Council in assessing the unmet needs of local Katrina evacuees and finding ways to provide services and case management.

NYDIS closed the Clothing Mart for Katrina evacuees on Nov. 4 after six weeks of operation. Over 1,000 evacuees were served, over 20,000 clothing items were distributed, and 135 volunteers from various faith communities across the city invested over 1100 volunteer hours.



NYDIS staff, volunteers, and evacuees at the Clothing Mart.

To date, NYDIS has raised half a million dollars in cash and in-kind donations to assist Katrina evacuees in NYC.

■ **NYDISnet Regular Edition - Coming Next Week**

Look for a full edition of NYDISnet next week. We wanted to get the latest news out to you about NYDIS' Katrina Evacuee Resettlement Program, so we devoted this issue solely to our Katrina Evacuee Relief Program and will return to our regular NYDISnet schedule next week. Deadline for articles is noon Friday, Nov. 11.

■ **Make a Difference - Donate to NYDIS' Katrina Relief Program**

If you'd like to make a donation to assist NYDIS in helping local Katrina Evacuees, [click here](#), or send a check to NYDIS at 22 Cortlandt Street, 20th Fl., New York, NY 10007, or call Executive Director Peter Gudaitis, 212.669.6100. 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... and it's a great way to assist Katrina evacuees in NYC.



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