



NET

November 17, 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

Email the editor at
slockwood@nydis.org

NYDIS
22 CORTLANDT
STREET
22ND FLOOR

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NYDIS NEWS AND EVENTS

■ **Join Us! NYDIS Holds Third Annual Meeting Nov. 22**

NYDIS' 2005 Annual Meeting and Reception will honor our major donors, program partners and the 150 NYDIS Katrina Relief volunteers. Our volunteers served over 1000 hours at the Disaster Assistance Service Center and the NYDIS Clothing Mart supporting the unmet needs of Hurricane Katrina evacuees who relocated to NYC.

The final day to RSVP is Friday, November 18.

If you would like to attend, please [RSVP online](#) or call 212.669-6100.

20TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

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FAX: 212.669.6101
www.NYDIS.org

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Please Join the NYDIS Board of Directors for Our 2005
NYDIS ANNUAL MEETING
and Reception

Tuesday • November 22, 2005 • 6:00 PM
NYU Kimmel Center • Rosenthal Pavilion, 10th Floor
60 Washington Square Park South

Keynote Speaker
KEN CURTIN
*Voluntary Agency Liaison
FEMA Region 2*

Honorees
Major Donors
9/11 & Katrina Partners
NYDIS Volunteers

Special Guests
MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG
*
COMMISSIONER JOSEPH F. BRUNO
NYC Office of Emergency Management
*
ERICA LOWRY
*Director of Community Initiatives
American Red Cross September 11 Recovery Program*



RSVP Online WWW.NYDIS.ORG/RSVP by Friday, November 18
212.669.6100 • PGudaitis@NYDIS.org

Business Attire Halal/Kosher

[View full size.](#)

■ EMM-NYDIS Launch Evacuee Resettlement Program

NYDIS in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) has launched 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. [More program information.](#)



Training Dates and Registration:

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

Houses of Worship EMM Registration For Sponsorship:

- Email - EMM@episcopalchurch.org
- Phone - 212.716.6347

For more information visit www.NYDIS.org or contact:
The Rev. Susan Lockwood
212-669-6104
slockwood@nydis.org

■ NYDIS Featured in NYNP Katrina Relief Article

Along with the fine work of 

several of our partner providers NYDIS' Katrina Relief Program and Clothing Mart were featured in the November 2005 edition of New York Nonprofit Press. The article, *Local Nonprofits Respond to Distant Disaster - Advance Planning Improves Services*, emphasizes the important role local nonprofits and spontaneous volunteers are playing in meeting the short term needs of Katrina evacuees now living in NYC. The article also highlights the quick and efficient response of NYC nonprofits to local evacuee needs as a benefit of planning and renewed institutional relationships following our 9/11 recovery work.



NYDIS volunteers, staff, and evacuees at the Clothing Mart that NYDIS operated for six weeks, enabling Katrina evacuees to obtain donated new clothing to help rebuild their wardrobe.

To read the full story, go to:

www.nydis.org/resources/headlines/11-07-05a.php



■ NYDIS Welcomes Hayyim Obadyah to Board

NYDIS recently welcomed Hayyim Obadyah to our Board of Directors as an advisory member. He replaces Annie Grunewald in representing the Human Services Council (HSC). Hayyim has been appointed Director of Disaster Preparedness for the Human Services Council. He is well known to many in the 9/11 community, having served as Director of Community Services for the American Red Cross for 18 years and a board member of the Institute for Disaster Spiritual Care.

For more info on Hayyim's new position at the HSC, check out the article in [From Our Members and Partners](#).

■ NYDIS & Partners Testify at Hearing on Uniform Anti-Discrimination Bill

NYDIS will join coalition partners in speaking in favor of the Uniform Anti-Discrimination Bill (Intro 577) at a City Council hearing on Thursday, Nov. 17, 12:30 pm at City Hall. The bill will make it illegal for any city agency to discriminate against anyone wearing religious garb in the workplace. Since 9/11, several members of minority faiths, including Muslims and Sikhs, have been fired or transferred from their jobs because they refuse to remove their religious headdress or clothing. Leadership in organizing the coalition to support this legislation ensuring tolerance in the workplace has come from the Sikh Coalition.



If you are interested in being part of this advocacy effort, please contact:

Kamal Kaur
Civil Rights Advocate
Sikh Coalition
Kamal.kaur@sikhcoalition.org
212-655-3095

■ WTC Immigrant Recovery Worker Meeting Set for Dec. 14

NYDIS is continuing to host a series of inter-agency meetings to discuss

the current unmet needs of documented and undocumented immigrants who were employed to abate asbestos or clean buildings at the WTC site. Agencies present at the Nov. 7 meeting made detailed recommendations to the three Unmet Needs Roundtables in NYC, LI, and NJ on how to best support the sustainable recovery needs of these laborers. That discussion also focused on barriers to sustainable assistance for out-of-status immigrants. The next meeting is set for Wednesday, Dec. 14, 9-10:30 am at NYDIS.

For more info, contact:
Maggie Jarry, Director of Recovery & Advocacy
212.669.6105
mjarry@nydis.org

■ **Bill To Restore \$125M for Recovery Workers Stonewalled**

The advocacy of NY legislators, especially Senators Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer and Rep. Carolyn Maloney, as well as many 9/11 service providers including NYDIS to restore the \$125 million in 9/11 aid that President Bush's proposed budget omitted was accepted into the Senate Labor HHS Appropriations bill in late Oct., only to be rejected by the Joint House-Senate Labor, HHS Conference Committee yesterday, Nov. 15.



The aid was to cover 9/11 workers in need of worker's compensation and medical and mental health needs. It should go to firefighters, police officers, workers, volunteers, and others who worked at Ground Zero and now need help themselves. There is some hope that the bill might be attached to a Hurricane Katrina aid bill.

To read the joint statement by Senators Clinton and Schumer, go to:
www.clinton.senate.gov/news/statements/details.cfm

■ **Unmet Needs Roundtable Updates**

● **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 – **Wednesday, November 23**
- 9:30 am – **Thursday, December 8**
- 9:30 am – **Thursday, December 22**

● **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. All training sessions take place at NYDIS.

- 9:30-11:30 am - **Tuesday, November 22**
- 9:30-11:30 am - **Tuesday, December 6**

To sign up for In-Service Training or to present a case, contact:
Maggie Jarry, Moderator
212-669-6105
mjarry@nydis.org



COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

■ Katrina Evacuee Case Management Training Dec. 6

The Training Subcommittee of the Katrina Coordinating Group is pleased to announce that the first full-day training specifically for case managers working with Katrina evacuees will be held Tuesday, December 6, 2005. Details are in the flyer. It will be a very productive day, giving case managers practical information that will help them serve evacuees effectively.



Space is limited to 50 participants, and advance registration is required.

[Download the flyer and registration form.](#)

For questions about registration contact:

Hayyim Obadyah
212-836-1618
ObadyahH@ujafedny.org

For questions about the training contact:

Jen Schenkel
212-371-1000
jennifer.schenkel@archny.org

■ Grantmaking and Disaster Response Panel on Nov. 29

The Foundation Center and NY Regional Association of Grantmakers is hosting a Meet the Grantmakers panel discussion on "Disaster Response: Issues Facing Grantmakers and Nonprofits" Tuesday, Nov. 29, 9-11:30 am, at Lighthouse International, 111 E. 59th St., Manhattan. Topics include: lessons learned from recent disasters, the impact of disaster response on other funding, and what nonprofits need to know about seeking funds for disaster relief. There is a \$15 registration fee and advance registration is required by Nov. 22.



To register, call:
800-424-9836



For questions or more info:

mtg@fdncenter.org
www.nyrag.org/calendar_info2332

■ Case Management Hotline for NYC Katrina Evacuees

A consolidated case management referral system for Katrina evacuees living in NYC is now operational. Thanks to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York all Hurricane Katrina evacuees living in NYC who are seeking a case manager to assist with services and recovery needs can call 1-888-744-7900, M-F, 9 am-6 pm.



■ NYC Katrina Evacuee Updates From HSC on NYDIS Website

The NYDIS website has an archive of all the weekly Katrina



Evacuee updates from the Human Services Council on relief and recovery services being offered locally and through FEMA to evacuees relocated to the city as well as information on ways to donate and volunteer.



Go to: www.nydis.org/resources/headlines/10-14-05.php

■ FEMA to Stop Paying for Evacuees' Hotels Dec. 1

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said Tuesday that it will stop paying hotel bills by the end of the month for most of the families devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, even though housing advocates fear they won't have enough time to find other places. Exceptions were granted to evacuees in hotels in Louisiana and Mississippi because of a shortage of housing. After Dec. 1, evacuees who aren't ready to leave hotels will have to cover costs out of pocket-either with FEMA rental housing aid they receive or from their own funds.



To read the full story, go to:
www.news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051116/ap_on_go_ot/hurricanes_evacuees
www.fema.gov

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FROM OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

• **Obadyah Named HSC Director of Disaster Preparedness**

Hayyim Obadyah was recently appointed Dir. of Disaster Preparedness for the Human Services Council (HSC), filling the position vacated by Annie Grunewald. As Dir. of Community Services for the American Red Cross' Sept. 11 Recovery Program, Hayim was involved extensively in the creation of the 9-11 United Services Group and the implementation of a common database of client information to enhance effective service. He will lead the HSC Disaster Preparedness Program, which coordinates disaster preparedness and planning for the human services sector in NYC, and is now actively involved in coordinating assistance to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



• **UJA-JRCR Sponsor Community Dialogue on Race & Katrina**

The Rev. Dr. Will Ashley, pastor, psychotherapist, and Director of the Council of Churches' Care for the Caregivers Project, led a dialogue on Race, Poverty, and Hurricane Katrina at a Nov. 1 community meeting sponsored by UJA-Federation of NY and the Jewish Community Relations Council of NY. Also, an announcement was made by UJA-Federation at the meeting that \$850,000 from its Katrina Relief Fund would be given in direct grants to provide humanitarian aid for evacuees in distressed communities in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas.



Dr. Ashley (L) and Cheryl Fishbein, Chair, UJA Hurricane Relief Committee

PREPAREDNESS CORNER

■ New York City Disaster Preparedness Information

Check out the latest resource from the New York City Office of Emergency Management - a pocket sized Ready New York Guide!



Information and other preparedness resources are available at:

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

■ Flu Season Is Approaching

To prepare for the coming flu season, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene urges New Yorkers at highest risk for serious illness or death from the flu to get a flu shot now. Talk to your doctor about getting the flu shot or click on the Find a Flu Shot link below for more info on DOHMH's walk-in clinics.



[Find a flu Shot](#)

[Who's at risk? Find facts about influenza](#)

■ NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Offers Email Updates

NYC DOHMH is now offering information for the health of all New Yorkers. To sign up for new and valuable updates, go to their website at:

www.nyc.gov/health/email

JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN DISASTER SERVICES

- The Tribute Center, a project of the **September 11th Families Association** September 11th Widows and Victims' Families' Association, is seeking volunteers impacted by 9/11 to lead guided tours of the WTC site and share their stories with visitors. The next volunteer training will take place during the second weekend of January.

If you are interested in being trained as a Tribute Center Guide, contact:

RachaelG@tributenyc.org

For more info on the volunteer program, go to:

www.tributenyc.org

WE RECOMMEND...

Disaster & Race: Katrina Response Raises Alarm

In response to watching those who were left behind to fend for themselves in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many Americans are taking a deeper look at institutional racism. Locally, more than 700 individuals have attended the People's Institute program and New Yorkers have helped make Undoing Racism an agenda item for the National Association of Social Workers.

Here are some opportunities for learning and participation:

- **Nov. 17, 5:50-7:30 pm: David Billings, Trainer, The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond**, will speak on "The Race Construct: Its Impact on Mental Health Treatment & Prevention" at the Westchester Chapter meeting of the NASW-NYS; presented by The Undoing Racism Committee. Location: NY Presbyterian Hospital, 21 Bloomingdale Rd, White Plains.

For more info, contact:

Sioux Taylor, chair, 203-668-0595 or Dick Steinberg, 203-794-9077

- **Nov. 18, 5:30-8:30 pm: November Potluck for Anti-Racist and Social Justice Activists**: Sponsored by the AntiRacist Alliance, the potluck will include a time of conversation with Jane Bolgatz, education professor at Fordham University, about her new book, Talking Race in the Classroom. Bring food or drink and come to Community Church of NY-Community House Gallery, 28 E. 35th St, Manhattan.

Please RSVP to:

Margery Freeman, 212-678-4947,
freemannola@verizon.net



For more info:

www.antiracistalliance.com

For information on Undoing Racism training, contact:

Sandy Bernabei, Anti-Racist Alliance, 914-522-5997

For information about the Gulf Region and the rebuilding without racism efforts, go to:

www.pisab.org

- **For a detailed run down of immigrant/Katrina issues, go to:**
www.ilw.com/immigdaily/news/2005,0921-crs.pdf
- **For the latest on disaster features and information on Katrina and other disasters, go to:**
www.disasternews.net

- **Order Our 9/11 Recovery and Ground Zero Tour CD**

Order [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 walking directions, a map, and identification of key points on the landscape. It also provides first-person stories by recovery workers who struggled and survived the experience.



Proceeds benefit NYDIS' 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

- **DONATE TO NYDIS' KATRINA EVACUEE RELIEF 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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