



NET

December 20, 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

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■ **Transit Strike - City Contingency Plan is in Effect**

The Transport Workers Union voted to strike early this morning--there is no MTA bus or subway service (Staten Island Rapid Transit, Metro-North, and Long Island Railroads remain operational). In response, the City has implemented its strike contingency plan. Traffic and roadway limitations, including HOV4 and commercial vehicle restrictions, are in effect from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m., weekdays. Alternate side of the street parking is suspended. Due to the strike, all New York City public schools will have a 2 hour delay to the start of the school day. School bus times will be delayed two hours as well, to accommodate for the new start time. Parents should call the school first to confirm if they wish to drop off children before the delayed start time.



Mayor Bloomberg spent the night in the Emergency Operations Center at NYC Office of Emergency Management in Brooklyn and walked across the Brooklyn Bridge to work this morning with other New Yorkers headed to work in Manhattan. The Red Cross was out in force offering hot drinks and food for the walkers.



[Visit Contingency Plan Web site](#)
[Get driving restrictions info](#)
[Get alternatives to driving info](#)
[Learn about unaffected transportation](#)
[Answers to Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Other websites for information:

[NY1](#)
[MTA](#)
[NYC Dept. of Education](#)

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NYDIS NEWS AND EVENTS

■ NYDIS Elects 2006 Officers and Approves \$2.2M Budget

At NYDIS' 2005 Annual Meeting the following members of the board of directors were elected as officers for the year 2006:

President:

Elder Betty C. Jones, Presbytery of NYC

First Vice President:

The Rev. Martha R. Jacobs, UCC-National Disaster Ministries

Second Vice President:

Bro. Tariqur Rahman, Islamic Circle of North America - Relief

Third Vice President:

Amardeep Singh, The Sikh Coalition

Secretary:

Lily R. Wu, Lutheran Disaster Response of NY

Treasurer:

The Rev. Dr. Charles H. Straut, NY Annual Conference - UMC

Also approved was a \$2.2 million budget for NYDIS' third full-year of operations. The 2006 budget represents a \$33% increase over 2005. The board is pleased to announce that 91% of our 2006 budget has already been raised.

At the Executive Committee's December meeting, the officers approved the addition of three new full-time positions to the NYDIS staff: Communications Assistant, Financial Assistant and Outreach Coordinator. This brings the NYDIS staff to nine full-time and two full-time temporary Katrina Relief staff members.

To view or download NYDIS' 2005 Annual Report, go to:

www.nydis.org/about/3.php

■ ERD Awards \$470,000 Grant to NYDIS

NYDIS has been awarded a \$470,000 grant from Episcopal Relief and Development for 2006. The grant will support key aspects of the 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable and our



general 9/11 Recovery programs, including outreach to underserved and marginalized populations, ongoing case management, conferences, and assistance for injured recovery workers. Two-hundred thousand dollars of the grant includes mini-grants for 9/11 service providers to ensure ongoing case management for 9/11 victims over the next 16-18 months. As a long-standing granting partner with NYDIS, ERD has played an integral role in assuring that there is a comprehensive long-term program of care for marginalized and underserved 9/11 victims.

For more information on ERD, go to:

www.er-d.org

■ Houses of Worship Help Resettle Katrina Evacuees

Thirty-nine houses of worship, representing 15 different faith communities, have contacted NYDIS about participating in the NYDIS-EMM (Episcopal Migration Ministries) Katrina Evacuee Sponsorship Program that matches houses of worship of all faiths with Katrina Evacuees who have relocated to NYC. The program involves helping resettle evacuees by providing or helping to find housing and employment as well as provide community orientation, personal contact and moral support. Sixteen faith community representatives attended training sessions on Nov. 29 at Marble Collegiate Church or on Dec. 7 at The Greater Allen Cathedral of NY. Central Synagogue, Manhattan, is already assisting a family from Mississippi, and ten other houses of worship are in preparation to receive an evacuee household.



There is still an urgent need for houses of worship to sponsor Katrina evacuees - 300 families face eviction from local hotels when FEMA funding ends Jan. 7.

- **If your house of worship is ready to sponsor an evacuee household:**
 1. Register with EMM:
EMM@episcopalchurch.org
212.716.6347
 2. Schedule a training for your house of worship with EMM, Don Cimato, 212.716-6347
- **If your house of worship is interested but needs more information, visit www.nydis.org or contact:**
The Rev. Susan Lockwood
212-669-6104
slockwood@nydis.org

■ WTC Immigrant Recovery Worker Meeting Set for Jan. 11

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 cleaning of buildings at the WTC site. The next meeting is set for Monday, Jan. 11, 1-3 pm, at NYDIS.

For more info, contact:

Maggie Jarry, Director of Recovery & Advocacy
212.669.6105

mjarry@nydis.org

■ NYC 9/11 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 – **Thursday, December 22**
- 9:30 am – **Thursday, January 12**
- 9:30 am – **Thursday, January 26**

• 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 - **Monday, January 9**
- 9:30-11:30 am - **Tuesday, January 24**

Please note that once a month the In-Service will be on Monday from 1-3:30 pm to accommodate case worker schedules.

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

■ NYDIS Executive Works on Pandemic Influenza Planning

NYDIS has begun working with NYC Office of Emergency Management to develop education and preparedness plans for faith communities in the event of Pandemic Influenza. OEM Commissioner Joe Bruno brought together the city's critical infrastructure agencies, including NYDIS Executive Director Peter Gudaitis to provide information and scenarios that can be used by agencies to develop an internal agency-specific pandemic influenza plan, and to brief agencies on the city's current influenza preparedness. The goal of the meeting was for agencies to design and develop a written continuity and response plan that will be submitted and reviewed by OEM and the Dept. of Health. Look for more updates in the near future.



To read more about the city's response, go to:
www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/readynewyork/hazard_public_health.html

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COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

■ Judge Orders Extension of FEMA Katrina Hotel Program

A program that put Hurricane Katrina evacuees in hotels must be extended until Feb. 7, a month beyond the deadline set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a judge ruled Monday. FEMA, however, is continuing to announce a Jan. 7 end date.



Attorneys pressing the lawsuit said FEMA should not be allowed to end the hotel program because it has failed to provide other housing aid, such as rental assistance checks, to many victims who qualify for it. Also, information on how to apply for the aid has been slow to reach those who need it most, the attorneys said.

FEMA continues to pay for an estimated 41,000 hotel rooms in 47 states and the District of Columbia at an estimated cost so far of about \$350 million.

For more info, go to:

www.femaanswers.org/index.php/Main_Page

■ NYC HRA Offers "One-Shot" Housing Assistance to Evacuees

The NYC Human Resources Administration has announced that Katrina evacuees in NYC will be eligible to receive "one-shot" assistance in covering moving-in costs for permanent housing. This assistance can include (as necessary) first month's rent, security deposits, broker fees and utility deposit. Limited subsidies are also available for furniture.



For information:

877.472.8411

www.nydis.org

■ FEMA Deadline to Apply for Disaster Assistance Is Jan. 11

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is reminding victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that the deadline for individuals and households to register for disaster assistance is Jan. 11, 2006.

Disaster assistance eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis and may include:

- Rental assistance
- Grants to help pay for minor home repairs
- Grants to replace furniture and other personal property not covered by insurance or other sources
- Grants to cover serious needs and necessary expenses caused by the disaster and not covered by insurance or other sources
- Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to cover uninsured or underinsured losses to the primary residence and its contents
- Other assistance such as free crisis counseling and free legal aid

Individuals who already have registered with the Red Cross also should register with FEMA. The toll-free registration number is **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the speech- and hearing-impaired. Information is available in multiple languages.

■ 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

■ Remembrance Service for 9/11 Dead Set for Dec. 17

St. Paul's Chapel and Voices of September 11 are hosting an interfaith service in memory of those who died on Sept. 11, on **Dec. 17, 12:30-1:30 p.m.**, at St. Paul's Chapel, 209 Broadway, Manhattan. The service features the Harlem Gospel Choir. Following the service, sculptor Mark Pilato will unveil his sculpture "Ascent" in the church courtyard.

For more info or to RSVP:
866-505-3911
www.voicesofsept11.org

■ LDRNY Sponsors LI Workshop on Trauma/Stress

Lutheran Disaster Response of New York is sponsoring a workshop on Comprehensive Acute Traumatic Stress Management, **Dec. 17, 9 am-4 pm.** on Long Island. Workshops will be given by Dr. Ray Shelton for the CERT CARE Team and the Medical Reserve Corp. Dec. 17, Grace Lutheran Church 1294 Bellmore Ave., N. Bellmore.



For more info or to register:
516-679-0080
faithfulresponse@ldrny.org
www.ldrny.org

■ Sen. Clinton and Others Demand EPA Fix WTC Clean-Up Plan

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and Congressman Jerrold Nadler joined with residents, workers and community advocates in calling on the EPA to revise its plan for testing and cleaning indoor air contamination following the Sept. 11 attacks. At the press conference, Clinton and Nadler also announced that they would ask the U.S. General Accountability Office to investigate the EPA's failure to establish an effective, science-based testing and clean-up plan in response to the post-9/11 environmental disaster.



To read more, go to:
www.clinton.senate.gov/news/statements/details.cfm?id=249590

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FROM OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

- **LDRNY Partner Travels to New Orleans to Film Documentary on Trauma**

Dr. David Grand, clinical director of Faithful Response, an LDRNY partner program, recently traveled to New Orleans to continue filming his documentary, "After the Flags Go Away." The film focuses on the lingering effects of trauma and grief long after events such as 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, bombings and accidents. To watch a clip of the movie, go to www.ldrny.org and click on Top News. LDRNY deputy coordinator for Long Island Pr. Tom Taylor is also working on the project.



- **NYAC-United Methodist Church Seeking Volunteers for Relief Teams**

The United Methodist Church is seeking volunteers for disaster relief teams to the Gulfport/Biloxi area to clean homes of debris and assist people in the long-term process of recovery. Registration must be made at least two weeks before the trip. For general information, please contact Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie (jewoodzie@nyac.com) or Tom Vencuss at tomvencuss@wethersfieldchurch.org or 860-529-2025. A mandatory three-hour Early Response Training Workshop that will be held at various locations.

- **UMCOR Announces Katrina Grant Partners**

The United Methodist Committee on Relief released the names of the partner agencies that will share the \$66 million grant received from the federal government to handle the case management after Hurricane Katrina.



Read the full story at:

www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=2992

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PREPAREDNESS CORNER

- **Hurricane Predictions for 2006 Released**

The 2006 Atlantic hurricane season may not be as volatile as 2005, according to the newest predictions from hurricane expert Dr. William Gray. Read the full story at: www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=2987



- **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

- **Cold Weather Home Heating Safety Tips**

When the temperature drops, you may decide to use portable heating

devices, including space heaters, to help heat your home. Safety measures and precautions should always be taken to ensure a safe, warm home through the upcoming winter.

[Learn more about Home Heating Safety](#)
[10 Fire Safety Tips](#)

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN DISASTER SERVICES

- **Three Full-Time Positions Available at NYDIS**
 - **Communications Assistant**

NYDIS is seeking a full-time employee with experience in writing and editing educational materials, newsletters and website content.



For position description, go to:
www.nydis.org

- **Financial Assistant or Bookkeeper & Grant Manager**

NYDIS is seeking a full-time employee with experience in QuickBooks bookkeeping and grants management.

For position description, go to:
www.nydis.org

- **9/11 Outreach Coordinator Available**

The Advisory Committee for the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable is seeking a full-time Outreach Coordinator to provide culturally and language competent outreach to underserved direct victims and injured recovery workers.

For position description, go to:
www.nydis.org

To apply for these three positions, email or fax your cover letter and resume to:

Peter B. Gudaitis, M.Div, Executive Director & CEO
NYDIS - New York Disaster Interfaith Services
22 Cortlandt Street, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10007
pgudaitis@nydis.org
Fax: 212-669-6101

No phone calls.

For info on NYDIS, go to:
www.nydis.org/about/1.php

- **Two Full-Time Temporary Positions Available at NYDIS**

NYDIS has been coordinating a NYC Katrina Evacuees Relief program on behalf of its members by distributing clothing, conducting unmet needs assessments at the NYC OEM Disaster

Assistance Service Center, and coordinating an Evacuee Resettlement Program with Episcopal Migration Ministries. In an ongoing effort to serve Katrina evacuees in a timely manner, NYDIS is seeking to hire two full-time temporary staff to assist with our efforts. NYDIS is seeking evacuees with human services experience or a recent college graduate or college students with human services training for two-four weeks of full-time work.

To apply, email or fax your cover letter and resume to:
Gili Chupak, Katrina Relief Coordinator
NYDIS - New York Disaster Interfaith Services
22 Cortlandt Street, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10007
gchupak@nydis.org
Fax: 212-669-6101

No phone calls.

For info on NYDIS, go to:
www.nydis.org/about/1.php

• **Tribute Center Seeks Volunteer Tour Guides**

The Tribute Center, a project of the 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:

September 11th Families Association

RachaelG@tributenyc.org

For more info on the volunteer program, go to:
www.tributenyc.org

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WE RECOMMEND...

- Check out the article *How Can We Help Grieving Individuals in the Wake of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina?* by Dr. Mark Lerner, President, American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress at: www.aaets.org/column8.htm
- Finished Shopping Yet?
One might expect the number of disaster recovery volunteers to dwindle around the holiday season - but that's hardly the case down in Mississippi. Read the full story at www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=2988
- The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) is carefully monitoring immigrant rights developments and assisting agencies in the hurricane-affected areas of the United States. Know Your Rights Materials for Immigrant Workers on the Gulf Coast is now available online at www.cliniclegal.org/katrina.shtml
- Check out latest report on implementation or lack thereof of the 9/11 report at Peaceful Tomorrows at

MAKE A GIFT TO NYDIS

- **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

- **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