



NET

January 5, 2006

**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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NYDIS NEWS AND EVENTS

■ NYDIS Wishes You A Happy New Year!

It has been our privilege to serve the faith communities of New York City and to work with so many talented, dedicated, and innovative partners in 2005! We thank you for your support, for your interest in our work and for your collaboration in serving NYC. We look forward to building new partnerships and the challenges ahead. We hope you will continue to find NYDISnet and www.nydis.org a vital source of disaster and crisis readiness, response, and recovery information and resources.

■ Red Cross Awards \$1.7M Grant to NYDIS for Roundtable

The American Red Cross has awarded \$1.7 Million from its Liberty Disaster Relief Fund to NYDIS to support 9/11 victims and injured recovery workers through the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable. The grant spans 18 months and includes cash assistance, staff and training



support.

The Roundtable, in partnership with 9/11 case management agencies, helps clients impacted by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks pay their rent, medical bills and other essential family living expenses while they work towards self sufficiency through long-term personal recovery plans. Many of those assisted are enrolled in the Mt. Sinai World Trade Center Health Effects Treatment Program and have applied for NYS Worker's Compensation but need short-term cash assistance in the meantime.

Three key aspects of the program are:

- outreach to under-served populations of victims and injured recovery workers;
- monthly continuing education training and service updates for caseworkers;
- support to cover expenses that assist/secure an applicant's financial recovery.

A grant from Episcopal Relief and Development will fund sub-grants to agencies in need of salary support for full-time 9/11 case workers who will accept new referrals and help clients to develop realistic, sustainable recovery plans (See the article below for the grant RFP).

To read the Press Release, go to: www.nydis.org/resources/6.04.php

■ **NYDIS Announces RFP for 2006 9/11 Case Workers Grants**

NYDIS is accepting proposals from service provider agencies that need grant support to retain a dedicated 9/11 case worker through 2006. The guiding principle for the Continuity of 9/11 Services grants is to support organizations that continue to provide long-term 9/11 recovery services to direct victims or injured recovery workers. The grants range from \$25,000-\$50,000. Grants requirements are 1) that caseworkers focus services on underserved or marginalized 9/11 victim populations with an emphasis on injured recovery workers and 2) that grantee agencies be willing to take referrals from NYDIS to manage emerging cases and that they utilize the resources of the Roundtable in stabilizing their clients recovery.



Deadline for submission of proposals to NYDIS is Jan. 30, 5 pm.

For questions, please contact:
Maggie Jarry, Director, Recovery & Advocacy
212-669-6105, mjarry@nydis.org

To download a copy of the RFP go to: www.nydis.org

■ **Houses of Worship Help Resettle Katrina Evacuees**

Update: Three congregations are currently assisting Katrina evacuees with resettlement through the NYDIS-EMM Sponsorship Program. Central Synagogue, Manhattan, has assisted a family from Mississippi and is planning to sponsor a second household. The Bruderhof Community, Bellvale, NY, and The Episcopal Church of St. Paul's-on-the-Hill, Ossining, NY, are each assisting families with resettlement.



Over 40 houses of worship, representing 15 different faith communities, have contacted NYDIS about participating in the NYDIS-EMM Sponsorship Program, and 10 are in preparation to receive an evacuee household.

There is still an urgent need for houses of worship to sponsor Katrina evacuees - over 200 families remain in local hotels and may be facing eviction at some point - and over 40 families are ready and awaiting sponsors through NYDIS-EMM.

If your house of worship is interested in sponsoring an evacuee household:

- Register with EMM:
EMM@episcopalchurch.org
Donald G. Cimato, Coordinator
212.716.6347
- Attend one of the following training/Information meetings:
Saturday, Jan. 21, 9:30 am-noon or
Wednesday, Jan., 25, 6:30-9:00 pm
At NYDIS: 22 Cortlandt St., 20th flr, Manhattan
Please register at:
www.nydis.org/resources/headlines/11-10-05.php

If your house of worship is interested in sponsorship, but needs more information, visit www.nydis.org or contact:
The Rev. Susan Lockwood - Director, Disaster Planning & Training
212-669-6104, slockwood@nydis.org

■ **NYC OEM and NYDIS Partner in CERT Pilot Project**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, a primary initiative of Citizen Corps to train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities, will be offered to houses of worship in each of the five boroughs through a pilot project with NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The training covers everything from disaster preparedness education and ways of organizing a strong team to fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical operations and terrorism.



The next cycle of training will begin in late February and NYDIS is looking for houses of worship in each of the five boroughs that would like to have their congregation and local neighborhood trained through the CERT program. Training takes place over the course of 11 consecutive weeks and is given by OEM, FDNY, NYPD, the American Red Cross in Greater New York, and Citizens for NYC. Participants are required to be 18 or older, and for liability purposes, all participants are subject to a background check before training begins.

If you or your congregation would like to sign up for CERT training, contact:

The Rev. Susan Lockwood - Director, Disaster Planning & Training
212-669-6104, slockwood@nydis.org

For more information, check out: www.nydis.org

To learn more about CERT, visit the CERT homepage:
www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT

■ NYDIS Attends Mayor's Interfaith Breakfast & Inauguration

Along with hundreds of NYC religious leaders of all faiths - eleven NYDIS board and staff members accepted an invitation from City Hall and attended the Mayor's Annual Interfaith Breakfast held Friday, December 30 at the NYC Public Library. In addition to a youth choir performance and prayers offered by various faith traditions, the Mayor addressed the gathering, thanking the faith communities for their support of the city and encouraging ongoing cooperation and collaboration.



On Sunday, January 1 Executive Director Peter Gudaitis joined other dignitaries and special guests on the steps of City Hall to witness the second Inauguration of Mayor Bloomberg. The NYDIS staff and Board are grateful to be included by City Hall at these special events in the life of the city as we continue to build a stronger collaboration between NYC faith communities and city agencies that meet our needs in times of crisis.

■ NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Schedule

• 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, 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 ([map](#)).

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



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

■ 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. The toll-free registration number is **800-621-FEMA (3362)** or TTY **800-462-7585** for the speech-and hearing-impaired. Information is available in multiple languages.



■ Local Information and Resources for Katrina Evacuees

• FEMA Hotel Update

FEMA has extended the stay of all Katrina evacuees living in local NYC hotels saying that there is now no deadline for continued hotel occupancy.

• 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

• 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 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/12-30-05.php

■ DOHMH Issues Alert Concerning Imported Case of Measles

The NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene issued an alert concerning an imported case of measles on a recent flight into JFK from Bangladesh.

For information, go to:

www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/imm/rubalert.shtml



If you have any questions or problems, call 212.676-2284.2288 during business hours or after hours the Poison Center 212.764.7667.

■ Bill Introduced in House to Change FEMA to Cabinet Level

On Dec. 8, bill **H.R. 4493** was introduced in the U.S. House



of Representatives to re-establish the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a cabinet-level independent establishment in the executive branch with responsibilities for U.S. preparedness and response to disasters. NY Congressmen Anthony Weiner (9th district, Brooklyn & Queens) and Tim Bishop (1st district, Suffolk) were two of 32 members of the House who introduced the bill, which was subsequently referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.



■ **New Rules Set for Giving Out Anti-terror Aid**

The Dept. of Homeland Security has announced that it will evaluate new requests for money from an \$800 million aid program for cities based less on politics and more on assessments of where terrorists are likely to strike and potentially cause the greatest damage, according to a NY Times article on Tuesday, Jan. 3.



To read the article, go to:

www.nytimes.com/2006/01/03/national/nationalspecial3/03grants.html

■ **Bill on Illegal-Immigrant Aid Draws Fire**

Churches, social service agencies and immigration groups across the country are rallying against a provision in the recently passed House border-security bill that would make it a federal crime to offer services or assistance to illegal immigrants.

The measure would broaden the nation's immigrant-smuggling law so that people who assist or shield illegal immigrants would be subject to prosecution. Offenders, who might include clergy, nurses or social workers, could face up to five years in prison. The proposal would also allow the authorities to seize some assets of those convicted of such a crime.

To read the full article by Rachel L. Swarns, go to:

www.nytimes.com/2005/12/30/politics/30immig.html

■ **Recovery Workers Can Apply to 9/11 Heroes Stamp Program**

After 9/11, the United States Postal Service (USPS) was directed to issue a semipostal stamp and distribute the proceeds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to *the families of emergency relief personnel killed or permanently physically disabled while serving in the line of duty in connection with the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001.*



\$10,565,073.61 has been collected from the sales of the Heroes semipostal stamp and FEMA is now ready to distribute the proceeds to eligible claimants. Based on FEMA's estimate of approximately 1000 eligible claimants, FEMA anticipates grants in the amount of approximately \$10,000 for each eligible claimant.

Eligible claimants are those emergency relief personnel who have been permanently physically disabled in the line of duty and, in the case of emergency relief personnel killed in the line of duty, their personal representatives. The categories included under emergency relief personnel are: firefighters, police or law

enforcement officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, employees (compensated or not) of legally organized volunteer organizations, clergy.

Applicants are required to file an application provided by FEMA, which can be downloaded from the FEMA website, requested through the mail, by phone or email. **Applications must be received on or before April 3, 2006.**

For more information or to download an application, go to:
www.usfa.fema.gov/heroesstamp

■ **Undoing Racism Workshops Offered Locally**

Hurricane Katrina has provided the opportunity to engage in a conversation about institutional racism and its ongoing impact on our country. The National Association of Social Workers—NYC and NYS Chapter—Westchester, Columbia U. School of Social Work, Fordham U. Graduate School of Social Service, Hunter College School of Social Work and the Antiracist Alliance are sponsoring two workshops offered by The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond to engage participants in a comprehensive exploration of how racism shapes American institutions and how to foster local work groups that will continue the conversation and work toward institutional change.



Workshop dates are:

February 26-28 at Fordham U. Graduate School of Social Service
April 9-11 at Westchester

For details, registration and more information, contact:
Sandy Bernabei, 914-723-3222
www.antiracistalliance.com

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FROM OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

- **LDRNY Ex. Dir. Dr. John Scibilia Begins Sabbatical**

LDRNY's Executive Director Dr. John J. Scibilia began a six-month sabbatical the end of Dec. LDRNY's President and Vice President Bishop Stephen Bouman and President David Benke expressed gratitude for John's leadership since LDRNY was founded after Sept. 11, and wrote: "We are thankful to God for John's ministry among us in helping fashion the ministry of LDRNY, almost literally from the ashes of the Sept. 11th tragedy."



To read the full letter, go to www.ldrny.org

- **WTC Survivors Network Honors LDRNY**

The WTC Survivors Network recently honored LDRNY with a Survivors Salute Award, recognizing LDRNY's support. The event brought together many of those who fled from the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, as well as guests from Oklahoma City.



For pictures, go to www.ldrny.org and click on Top News.
For more on WTC Survivors Network, go to:
www.survivorsnet.org

- **Lutheran Medical Center Reaches Out to those Affected by Sept. 11**

Lutheran Family Health Centers' Family Support Center at Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, reached out to immigrant families directly impacted by Sept. 11 with a community fair in December in an effort to address the unmet and outstanding vocational, mental health, and family support needs. "More than four years later, there are still families, particularly in the immigrant communities of southwest Brooklyn, that still need support," said Larry K. McReynolds, executive director of Lutheran Family Health Centers.

To learn more, call the Family Support Center at 718-630-7186.

- **NYAC-United Methodist Church Seeking Volunteers**

The United Methodist Church is continuing to seek and train 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 and a three-hour Early Response Training workshop is mandatory.

For general information, please contact Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie jewoodzie@nyac.com or Tom Vencuss at tomvencuss@wethersfieldchurch.org or 860-529-2025.

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PREPAREDNESS CORNER

- **Flu Activity is Picking Up in NYC**

Daily monitoring of hospital emergency department visits suggests that flu activity is increasing in NYC. The growing number of New Yorkers experiencing cough and fever--signs typically associated with the spread of community-wide flu--is a reminder for New Yorkers to get vaccinated for influenza. Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, Commissioner of the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), urges New Yorkers, especially those who are over 65 or have long term illness, to get a life saving flu shot from their doctor or a DOHMH clinic.



[Click here for more.](#)

- **Transit Strike Teaches Lessons**

There were preparedness lessons learned in the three-day transit strike in NYC, valuable for us and others. Find out what they are, and also what was said about NYDIS at:

www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=2999

■ 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

■ Does Your Congregation Want to Learn More about Preparedness?

Susan Lockwood, NYDIS Director of Disaster Planning & Training, is available to discuss disaster preparedness at your house of worship. She can give the OEM Ready New York presentation on household preparedness, show what goes in a Go Bag, discuss how houses of worship can be prepared, or discuss topics of special interest to you, such as self-care, disaster ministry, and disaster spiritual care.

To schedule a talk, contact Susan at 212-669-6104 or slockwood@nydis.org.

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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/about/15.php

◦ 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/about/15.php

◦ 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/about/15.php

To apply, 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

- **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...

- **SAMSHA Broadcast**

On Dec. 15, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services SAMSHA Center for Mental Health Services sponsored a web cast panel presentation on Peer Support in Disaster Preparation for People with Psychiatric Disabilities. Panel members gave detailed recommendations and focused on the importance of including mental health consumers in pre-disaster planning as well as staffing for post-disaster response. You can watch and listen to the broadcast on the SAMSHA website at:

www.connectlive.com/events/samhsa

- **SAMSHA Fundamentals of Disaster Planning & Response**

SAMSHA has a number of excellent presentations on topics such as Key Concepts in Disaster Mental Health, Stress, Psychological First Aid, PTSD, Children and Trauma, and Substance Abuse. Check it out at:

www.shs.net/samhsadr/contents.htm

- **Philanthropy News Digest**

Check out this online and e-digest produced as a service of the Foundation Center. The current January 3, 2006, Volume 12 Issue has articles on 9/11 and Tsunami funding. Check it out at:

www.fdncenter.org/pnd

To subscribe, go to:

www.fdncenter.org/newsletters

- **Suicides Up in New Orleans**

Mental Health professionals say New Orleans appears to be experiencing a sharp increase in suicides in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and interviews and statistics suggest that the rate is not double or more the national and local averages. To read more, go to:

www.nytimes.com/2005/12/27/national/nationalspecial/27suicides.html

- **The Washington Post on Mike Brown & DHS**

Michael Grunwald and Susan B. Glasser, *Washington Post* staff, have written an incisive article on Michael Brown's tenure as head of FEMA. To read the article, "Brown's Turf Wars Sapped FEMA's Strength: Director Who Came to Symbolize Incompetence in Katrina Predicted Agency Would Fail," go to:

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/22/AR2005122202213.html

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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

