NYDIS: New York Disaster Interfaith Services

FAITH COMMUNITIES BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR READINESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY
Mission & Vision

- **Mission:** NYDIS inspires, connects, and shares resources with New York City faith communities serving in disaster

- **Vision:** To create an urban environment that ensures social justice for all peoples
History

• Founded to coordinate 9/11 Recovery & the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable
• A federation of faith-based human service providers and philanthropies in NYC
• Became 501(c)(3) in 2003
• Focuses on under-served client population and under-resourced faith communities.
• Members task NYDIS to lead their disaster advocacy, preparedness & training efforts
• Maintains a Memorandum of Understanding with NYC OEM which provides a workstation for NYDIS in the Emergency Operations Center
Leadership & Governance

• Board of Directors (All Volunteer)
  – 29 voting Members-Only Fait-based
    • Must Pay Annual Dues
    • Must Sign Article of Partnership

• 7 Advisory Members-Gov’t/NGO Partners
  • Must Sign Articles of Partnership

• Staff
  – Professional Staff-9 FT& 2 PT
  – AmeriCorps*VISTAs-4FT
  – Volunteers-2 PT
Members & Partners

MEMBERS:
• 29 Faith Communities & Faith-based Organizations
• 5,050 Clergy & Religious Leaders
• 3,800 Houses of Worship
• 3,670,000 Worshiping Members
• Our Members Served 79,005 Clients in 2007
• NYDIS Trained 7,885 Religious Leaders in 2007

PARTNERS
• 7 Advisory Members on Board
• 3 Government Seats
• 1 NGO’s
• 2 Elected Officials
• Purpose: NYDIS collaborates on or manages programs with dozens of government agencies and community-based partners in order to increase the competency of these partners in faith-based readiness, response, and recovery.

NYDIS
NEW YORK DISASTER INTERFAITH SERVICES
Capacity Building

• **AmeriCorps*VISTA**: A national service program dedicated to the elimination of domestic poverty funding by the New York State Office of the Corporation for National & community Service

• **Goal**: Build and sustain the capacity of NYDIS and partners to provide faith-based disaster preparedness and recovery services for low-income, disaster-impacted populations

• **3-Year Program (2007-2009)**
  – Year 1: 10 members at 5 sites
  – Year 2: 6 members at 5 sites
  – Year 3: Proposal Pending
CISTA Sites & Subsites

• Sponsoring Organization
  – New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)

• Subsites
  – Muslim Consultative Network (MCN)*
  – NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
  – Sikh Coalition
  – World Vision*

*New Site in Year 2
Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care

• Implemented in 2008
• Trains, Credentials, and Deploys volunteer Disaster Chaplains & Spiritual Care Workers from Member agencies
• NYDIS Faculty offer the Curriculum Nationally
• Four Curricula:
  – Disaster Chaplains (DASC, DMORT, Pod)
  – Spiritual Care Workers (Shelters & Field Ops)
  – Chaplain & Spiritual Care Worker Supervisor
  – Train-the-Trainers (Board Certified Chaplains)
• Pool of more than 600 religious leaders ready to be trained in disaster chaplaincy
• 1,200 to be trained by Hurricane Season 2009
Communications

• NYDISNet-Free bi-weekly e-newsletter
  – NYDIS & Community News
  – Recovery News
  – Conferences, Upcoming Trainings
  – Best Practices & New Research/Resources
  – Job Postings
• NYDISNET ALERT-up-to-date high priority information in times of crisis
• Website-www.nydis.org
  – Self-Post Resource Library
  – Recovery Resource Guide
  – Online Client Inquiry
Community Outreach & Training

• Offering NYC religious leaders and faith communities skill building and resources
  – Annual Clergy Preparedness Summits
  – Coastal Storm Planning Summits
  – NYDIS Emergency Rest Centers Program
  – OEM & Citizen Corps Conferences & Forums
  – STAR NYC Trainings (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resiliency)
  – Ready NY Trainings
  – Recovery Training
Disaster Spiritual Care Manual

• I. Preparation & Mitigation Phases
  – 1. Disaster Response Planning & Preparedness
  – 2. Faith Communities: Immediate/Long-Term Caregivers
  – 3. Self-Care
  – 4. Radical Hospitality: HOW Responding to Disaster
  – 5. Developing Cultural Competence
• II. Response & Recovery Phases
  – 6. Conflict Transformation: Mitigating the Effect of Disaster
  – 7. The Role of Religious Leaders in Trauma Response
  – 8. Mental Health Response to a Disaster
  – 9. The Context for Going to Help: Disaster Chaplains
• III. Reference Section
  – 10. Index of all Chapters’ Resource Citations
  – 11. Glossary of Emotional States
  – 12. Age-Specific Reactions and Interventions
  – 13. New York City Government Response
  – 14. Primary National Volunteer Response Organizations
  – 15. NYC Disaster Response Agencies and Organizations
  – 16. Incident Command System
  – 17. New York State Government Response to Disaster
  – 18. Federal Response to Disaster
HOWCALM®

• House of Worship Communitywide Asset and Logistics Management HOWCALM®
• A secure, online, proprietary database system that tracks the logistics and resources of:
  – Houses of Worship
  – Religious Schools
  – Faith-based Disaster Human Service Providers
• Operational in New York City since 2005
• User Licenses Available Nationally
  – Disaster Interfaiths
  – Faith Communities and/or Judicatory Bodies
  – Government & NGO Partners
Tiers of Data

• Holds 5 Tiers of Data:
  – Tier 1-Location & Senior Leaders
  – Tier 2-Emergency contacts
    • Including Senior Staff with Disaster-related Credentials
• Tier 3-Facilities & Programs
  – Physical Plant, Facilities, & Equipment
  – Community-Based Outreach & Social Services
  – Personnel Skills and Languages
• Tier 4- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
• Tier 5-Homebound Congregant Registry
  – For congregants unable to self-evacuate
New York City

• Operational Since 2005
• Over 7,000 FBOs
• Over 100 Profiled Institutions
• 1 Full-Time Staff
• 2 Full-Time Staff VISTAs for Outreach
Planning

• Government
  – OEM/NYDIS- Emergency Rest Centers
  – OEM-Disaster Assistance Service Centers (DASC)
  – NYS DOH CERC- Crisis Emergency Risk Communication
  – NYC DOHMH-Pandemic Influenza Planning
• New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)
  – Activation Protocols
  – Continuity of Operations Planning
• NYC VOAD Planning Groups
  – Immigrant Affairs
  – Mental Health & Spiritual Care
  – Volunteer Management
Policy & Victim Advocacy

• Advocacy Priorities for 2008-2009:
  – Health of 9/11 Recovery workers and Lower Manhattan Residents
  – Increased Preparedness Resources CBO/FBOs
  – Evolving Needs of Disaster-Impacted Communities
  – Disaster Backlash Mitigation
  – Government Policies and Legislation Addressing Disaster Assistance

• Lower Manhattan clergy Council advocates for religious competence of the burial vault as well as how faith community recovery stories are incorporated in the memorial museum displays.
Recovery

- NYDIS members provide coordinated recovery programs in collaboration with the broader human service community.
- NYDIS directly provides recovery programs addressing unmet needs.
  - Client Advocacy Working Groups
  - Caseworker & Clergy Support Groups & Pastoral Care
  - Clergy Councils for Clergy from Impacted Congregations
  - Interfaith Discussion Groups for Impacted Community Members
  - Recovery Coordination & Training for Member Agencies
  - Unmet Needs Roundtables
- Recovery Programs provided by NYDIS and its members are non-sectarian, secular, accommodate all religious needs, and are cultural/language competent
Current/Recent Operations

- Terrorist Attacks, September 11, 2001
- Anthrax Attacks, October 2001
- Flight 587 Crash, November 12, 2001
- Northeast Power, Grid Blackout, August 14, 2003
- Staten Island Ferry Crash, October 15, 2003
- “21” Blizzard, February 10, 2006
- Queens Blackout, July 17-25, 2006
- Brooklyn-Queens Tornado & Flood, August 8, 2007
- Turtle Bay Crane collapse, March 18, 2008
Unmet Needs Roundtables

• Purpose: To bring together donors and case work agencies to provide financial assistance and professional services to clients with unmet needs that ensure victims’ sustainable recovery.

• NYDIS is the lead agency to activate and manage all Unmet Needs Roundtables in New York City.

• All Roundtables are managed by an Advisory Committee in coordination with caseworkers and donors. NYDIS maintains a tax-exempt fund where corporations, foundations, and individuals can make donations to a managed fund that provides client funding reports.

• NYDIS hosts [www.unmetneedsroundtables.org-a](http://www.unmetneedsroundtables.org-a) secure online client/donor data and responding tool.
Professional Affiliations

- Citizen Corps Council-NYC Office of Emergency Management
- Council of Community Services of New York State
- Human Services Council of New York City
- International Critical Incident Stress Foundation
- National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff (NAEIS)
- National Disaster Interfaiths Network (NDIN)
- National Organizations for Victims Assistance (NOVA)
- New York Immigration Coalition
- New York Police Department-SHIELD
- Non-Profit Coordinating Committee of New York
- North American Interfaith Network (NAIN)
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster-New York City VOAD
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster-New York State VOAD
Contact NYDIS

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