



# NET

December 13, 2006  
Special Year-End Issue

**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.

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*

If you have some news to share or an upcoming event to publicize please contact [yperry@nydis.org](mailto:yperry@nydis.org)

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**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF NYDIS  
WISH YOU A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Our next issue will be on January 3, 2007.

## **NYDIS NEWS AND EVENTS**

### **■ NYDIS ED Elected to HSC Board of Directors**

NYDIS Executive Director, Peter Gudaitis, was elected as a new member of the Board of Directors of the Human Services Council (HSC) on December 13. The HSC Board consists of Standing Members, organizations that are federations or coalitions that are elected as Members at Large. HSC asked NYDIS to be a Standing Member of the Board. The HSC, "The Voice of the Human Services Community," represents thousands of not-for-profit organizations to build broad recognition and support for the not-for-profit human service sector to the citizens and the fabric of NYC. Through advocacy, information, collaboration, and technical assistance, member organizations are backed by the entire sector in addressing their concerns on issues of public policy, economic trends, and regulatory environment.



[www.hsc.org](http://www.hsc.org)

### **■ NYDIS Visited by CRC to Aid WTC Recovery Workers**

On December 11 representatives from the Canadian Red Cross visited NYDIS for a day of discussion and in-service training on how the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable funds might be used to support the recovery plans of Canadian Mohawk ironworkers that are sick due to their participation in the WTC cleanup effort. Currently a group of Canadian Mohawk ironworkers regularly travel to the Mt. Sinai Hospital for ongoing treatment for WTC related illnesses.



[www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)

### **■ NYDIS ED Keynotes Philadelphia Clergy Conference**

Peter Gudaitis was the keynote speaker at a conference for Philadelphia religious leaders entitled, "Uniting Communities to Prepare For and Respond to Disasters" hosted by the local ARC chapter. Held on December 7, the conference was intended to educate key leaders within Philadelphia's faith community to become active VOAD/Citizen Corps volunteers and to attend preparedness trainings. Gudaitis emphasized the importance of the faith-based community to communicate and collaborate with each other.

### **■ NYDIS & NYCOSH Publicize Worker Comp Deadline**

NYDIS is joining the NY Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) in collaboration with the NYS AFL-CIO, WTC Medical Monitoring Program, the Laborers' Health and Safety Trust Fund, the Business and Labor Coalition of New York, workers' compensation law firms, the UCC-National Disaster Ministries, and Wall Street Rising, is mounting a



media campaign to inform workers throughout the country about the necessity of registering for workers' compensation. Joel Shufro, NYCOSH Executive Director, said, "We know that tens of thousands of people are at risk of becoming ill as a result of their exposure to toxic air and to psychological trauma while doing rescue, recovery or cleanup work after 9/11. We want to ensure that every one of them registers with the Workers' Compensation Board before the August 14, 2007, deadline. And if they don't know about the program, they won't register, it's that simple."

For guidelines for registering, in English and Spanish, and all the necessary forms:  
866.WTC.2556

Download a flyer (pdf):

[www.nycosh.org/911info/Flyer-06%20o25.pdf](http://www.nycosh.org/911info/Flyer-06%20o25.pdf)

[www.nycosh.org](http://www.nycosh.org)

#### ■ **NYDIS at Conference on Avian Flu's Impact on Business**

NYDIS' Autumn Brown attended "Avian Flu: Ethical, Financial, and Management Implications for Business," a conference presented by the



Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity at Baruch College, on December 1. Panels included experts in public health and ethics, prompting discussions on how to reduce opportunities for human infection, what public health officials, the media, and the public might expect employers to do to keep their employees safe, and how government should balance the demands of public safety and business continuity. Houses of Worship are a particularly vulnerable business that needs to have continuity plans in place.

[www.zicklin.baruch.cuny.edu](http://www.zicklin.baruch.cuny.edu)

#### ■ **NYDIS Presents at Chinese Community Meeting**

On November 30 Maggie Jarry spoke to a group of 9/11-affected Chinatown residents at the Chinese Benevolent Association. The presentation included discussion of ongoing recovery aid available via the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable and the partnership between NYDIS and Hamilton Madison House - Chinatown Resource in assisting Chinese community residents that qualify and are actively creating recovery plans for presentation at the Roundtable. The meeting drew coverage from three major Chinese newspapers, including the World Journal, the Sing Tao Daily and the China Press. Since this meeting, Hamilton Madison House has seen a significant increase in calls from 9/11-affected Chinatown residents.

#### ■ **NYDIS Coordinates Events to Support 9/11 Case Managers**

On November 20, NYDIS partnered with the World Cares Center-Lower Manhattan (WCC), the NY Psychiatric Institute, Faithful Response and the donor representatives at all three 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtables to present two trainings, Meet and Greet the Donors, and a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Seminar for 9/11 service providers. Both events were co-hosted by NYDIS and the WCC and were attended by over 45 service providers from 22 agencies.

- **Meet and Greet the Donors** was an informal lunch followed by a panel discussion Q&A session with the donor representatives at the 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtables.
- **PTSD Seminar for 9/11 Service Providers** included presentations on recognizing and supporting staff with compassion fatigue and tools for working with clients that suffer from PTSD. Presenters were Tom Taylor of Faithful Response and Roberto Lewis-Fernandez, M.D., Michelle McNamara, Psy.D. and Eun Jung Suh, Ph.D. of the NY Psychiatric Institute.
- **Latino Cultural Competency Training** was presented by Elba Montalvo, Executive Director of the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, whose new offices in Lower Manhattan held the event. Attended by 21 service providers from 13 agencies, it focused on recognizing cultural biases and norms within the service provider community and how that impacts effectively working with clients from the Latino community.

#### ■ NYC 9/11 Recovery Resources Online

**A comprehensive list of news, updates and resources for 9/11 victims and injured recovery workers, updated weekly:**

[www.nydis.org/recovery/11.php](http://www.nydis.org/recovery/11.php)

#### ■ NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Updates

- **Online 9/11 Client Inquiry Form**

To access the form, go to:

[www.nydis.org/unmetneeds/7.php](http://www.nydis.org/unmetneeds/7.php)



- **NYC 9/11 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](#)).

- **2007 Dates TBA**

- **NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Schedule**

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. Due to the influx of cases which need presenting, the 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable will be adding an additional Wednesday date each month. There will now be three meetings a month, instead of two.

- **Thursday, December 21 - 9:30-12:00 noon**

To sign up for In-Service Training or to present a case:

Maggie Jarry, Moderator

212.669.6105

[mjarry@nydis.org](mailto:mjarry@nydis.org)

## ■ NYC Katrina Evacuee Resources Online

A comprehensive list of news, updates and resources for Katrina evacuees in NYC, updated weekly:  
[www.nydis.org/katrina](http://www.nydis.org/katrina)

## ■ NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable

- **NYC Katrina In-Service Training for Case Managers**

Case managers working with Katrina or Rita survivors are required to attend an in-service training prior to presenting at the Roundtable. The purpose of these trainings is to provide case managers with a better understanding of the workings of the Roundtable and to help increase the likelihood that a client's needs could be funded.



- **NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable**

The NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable aids case managers in securing cash assistance and to share resources to best meet the unmet needs of disaster victims so that they may regain self-sufficiency and recover from the impact of a disaster. The Roundtable helps to facilitate long-term recovery by supporting clients' recovery plans.

For more information contact:  
Maggie Jarry, Moderator  
212.669.6105  
[mjarry@nydis.org](mailto:mjarry@nydis.org)

## ■ Upstate NY Flood Recovery Resources Online

A comprehensive list of news, updates and resources for upstate NY flood recovery, updated weekly:  
[www.nydis.org/recovery/12.php](http://www.nydis.org/recovery/12.php)

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

### ■ Sign-Up Now – WTC Medical Exams for Responders

The WTC Medical Monitoring Program offers free, complete medical examinations. To date, 30,000 responders have been screened under the Program, which is open to responders in NY and across the country who served at Ground Zero. Eligible responders who have not yet been screened are urged to enroll in the program. What doctors learn from monitoring the health of thousands of these workers will help future disaster relief workers.



Contact for an exam:  
1.888.702.0630 from 9:00 am-5:00 pm

[wtce exams@mssm.edu](mailto:wtce exams@mssm.edu)

Download the Brochure (pdf):

[www.wtce exams.org/pdfs/wtc\\_brochure\\_english\\_20060828.pdf](http://www.wtce exams.org/pdfs/wtc_brochure_english_20060828.pdf)

[www.wtce exams.org](http://www.wtce exams.org)

#### ■ **Enroll in WTC Health Survey**

The WTC Health Registry is a comprehensive and confidential health survey of those most directly exposed to the events of 9/11/01, and will give health professionals a clear picture of the health consequences of 9/11/01.



For a copy of the WTC Health Registry Survey:

[healthinfo@wtcsurvey.org](mailto:healthinfo@wtcsurvey.org)

Contact the WTC Health Registry:

212.442.1585 or 866.692.9827

[wtchr@health.nyc.gov](mailto:wtchr@health.nyc.gov)

[www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wtc/about.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wtc/about.html)

#### ■ **Congress Changes FEMA Policy in Post-Katrina**

The Congressional Research Service recently published a new report, *Federal Emergency Management Policy Changes After Hurricane Katrina: A Summary of Statutory Provisions*, which summarizes the recent legislation and the impact on FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Reports issued by committees of the 109th Congress, the White House, federal offices of Inspector General, and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded that the losses caused by Katrina were due, in part, to deficiencies such as questionable leadership decisions and capabilities, organizational failures, overwhelmed preparation and communication systems, and inadequate statutory authorities. From these conclusions, the 109th Congress revised federal emergency management policies vested in the President; reorganized FEMA; and enhanced and clarified the mission, functions, and authorities of the agency, as well as those of its parent, the DHS.



This report can be downloaded at:

[www.tisp.org/news/newsdetails.cfm?&newsID=1184](http://www.tisp.org/news/newsdetails.cfm?&newsID=1184)

#### ■ **Senators Ask President to Fund 9/11 Medical Needs**

On December 1, Senator Clinton, along with Senators Schumer and Kennedy, called on the President to include funding in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2008 for medical and mental treatment and for the monitoring of 9/11 first responders, workers, students, residents, and volunteers whose health has been jeopardized. In a letter to the President, the Senators also asked that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) be prepared to provide funding for any gap in existing programs for medical and mental health monitoring and treatment until legislation is passed that addresses the long term needs. The Senators have introduced legislation called the 9/11 Heroes Health Improvement Act of 2006



and will reintroduce legislation next year when the 110th Congress convenes calling for \$1.9 billion in funding to address these ongoing needs.

[www.clinton.senate.gov](http://www.clinton.senate.gov)

#### ■ **Clinton Introduces Disaster Mental Health Bill**

Additionally, Senator Clinton introduced the Public Mental Health Emergency Preparedness Act of 2006, which, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), would establish the National Center for Public Mental Health Emergency Preparedness to address mental health concerns and coordinate and implement the development and delivery of mental health services in the event of bioterrorism or other public health emergency. Bill S.3537 was introduced in the second session of the 109th Congress on June 20, 2006.

Read the full text of these Bills at:

[thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/thomas](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/thomas)

#### ■ **Link Between 9/11 Site Exposure and Cancer**

In the Village Voice article, "Death by Dust: The Frightening Link Between the 9/11 Toxic Cloud and Cancer", Kristen Lombardi tells the story of Ernie Vallebuona, who, three years after a three-month stint as a rescue and recovery worker at Ground Zero, received the diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma—a rare stage-three aggressive cancer. To date, 75 recovery workers have been diagnosed with blood cell cancers that were medically confirmed as having been likely caused by exposure to 9/11. Those 75 cases have come to light in joint-action lawsuits filed against NYC on behalf of at least 8,500 recovery workers from Ground Zero who all suffer from the debilitating effects of those events. Of the 8,500 people now suing the city, 400, or about 5 percent, have cancer, most are men, aged 30 to 60, who appeared in perfect health just five years ago.

Read the November 28 Village Voice article:

[villagevoice.com/news/0648,lombardi,75156,2.html](http://villagevoice.com/news/0648,lombardi,75156,2.html)

#### ■ **EPA's Lower Manhattan Test and Clean Program**

In the final phase of its response to 9/11, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on December 6 the beginning of a program to test indoor spaces in Lower Manhattan. The program, which covers the area south of Canal Street and west of Allen and Pike Streets, will allow residents and building owners to have the air and dust in their units tested for four contaminants associated with dust from the collapse of the WTC. Registration for the program will begin mid-January and run for two months.



Learn more from the EPA Press Release:

[yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf)

Download the Plan document (pdf):

[www.epa.gov/wtc/panel/pdfs/lower-manhattan-indoor-test-and-clean-program-plan-december2006.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/wtc/panel/pdfs/lower-manhattan-indoor-test-and-clean-program-plan-december2006.pdf)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

- **Nadler Critical of New EPA WTC Testing & Cleanup**

On December 6, NYC Congressman Jerrold Nadler criticized the EPA for issuing an inadequate testing and cleanup program for WTC contamination. The new plan does not reflect the recommendations of the EPA Inspector General issued in August 2003, or the WTC Expert Technical Review Panel established by EPA specifically to develop a scientifically sound plan for indoor contamination. The new program will allow residents to test for only four contaminants (asbestos, lead, PAHs, and man-made vitreous fibers), on a voluntary basis, and if necessary, have their residence cleaned. A total of \$7 million has been allocated for the program.

At the request of Rep. Nadler, Sen. Clinton, and Sen. Jeffords, the GAO has been conducting a study of EPA's WTC indoor testing and cleanup program, and the EPA's disbandment of the "Technical Review Panel." GAO is expected to include a review of the new EPA testing and cleanup plan as part of its study; a draft report is expected in March, 2007.

Read Rep. Nadler's entire comments:

[www.house.gov/apps/list/press/ny08\\_nadler/EPAWTCcleanup120606.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/ny08_nadler/EPAWTCcleanup120606.html)

[www.house.gov/nadler](http://www.house.gov/nadler)

- **NYCOSH: EPA Clean-Up Plan Completely Ineffective**

The New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) issued a statement on December 6 on EPA's plan concerning contamination resulting from the collapse of the WTC. "After conducting one completely ineffective cleanup program in 2002 and then dawdling for nearly three years before beginning a program that will allegedly correct the deficiencies of the first effort, EPA has insulted everyone who works, lives or studies in Lower Manhattan by offering a new cleanup plan that is scarcely better than the first one. In particular, EPA once again refuses to clean contaminated workplaces, even though there is not a scintilla of evidence that workplaces are any less likely to be contaminated than residences. The approximately 1,500 commercial and institutional buildings in Lower Manhattan, including offices, schools, government buildings, and firehouses, are excluded from the cleanup program. There is no scientific or legal basis for this exclusion."



Download the entire NYCOSH statement (pdf):

[www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet\\_54\\_NYCOSH.pdf](http://www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet_54_NYCOSH.pdf)

[www.nycosh.org](http://www.nycosh.org)

- **9/11 Mental Health: Enrollment Ends January 2, 2007**

The 9/11 Mental Health and Substance Abuse program helps people who were directly affected by 9/11 get treatment at

little or no cost no matter where they live. Counseling, group therapy, psychological testing, medication, substance abuse treatment, in-patient care and outer-ear acupuncture are among the

[The 9/11 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program](#)

services the program can help cover. The deadline for registration is January 2, 2007 at 5:00 pm.

To enroll online:

[www.9-11mentalhealth.org/signup.html](http://www.9-11mentalhealth.org/signup.html)

For more information:

800.543.3638

[www.9-11mentalhealth.org](http://www.9-11mentalhealth.org)

#### ■ **Deutsche Bank Dismantling Begins at WTC Site**

Workers started to dismantle the facade of the former Deutsche Bank building on December 8 as a prelude to its demolition, which is to begin in January, according to the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center. The building stands opposite Ground Zero at 130 Liberty Street, and was badly damaged and contaminated on 9/11.



[www.nytimes.com/2006/12/08/nyregion/08mbrfs-deutsche.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/08/nyregion/08mbrfs-deutsche.html)

#### ■ **Annual NYC Hunger Survey Just Published**

The NYC Coalition Against Hunger released their annual survey on hunger, "Hunger Hangs On: NYC Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens Still Overwhelmed," which details how the number of people forced to use the city's pantries and kitchens continues to increase despite recent increases in the stock market. The Coalition also cites federal data from the US Department of Agriculture and the Human Resources Administration to corroborate many of the survey's findings. The Coalition's annual survey is the best known yearly report on hunger. Addressing the root causes of hunger make at risk communities more resilient in times of crisis and disaster.



Download the Report (doc):

[www.nyccah.org/releases/report\\_final.doc](http://www.nyccah.org/releases/report_final.doc)

[www.nyccah.org](http://www.nyccah.org)

#### ■ **New National Symbol for Emergency Management**

The stylized letters "EM" will be used by state and local emergency managers as an icon in a new campaign to help make people more aware of what emergency management does to protect lives and property. "We think it's important to have a recognizable symbol," said Bruce Baughman, president of the National Emergency Management Association. "If people see that symbol on web sites, on the sides of government vehicles, on crates of emergency relief supplies and on preparedness material, they'll more easily recognize the efforts to make their lives safer and more secure and hopefully become more involved in the process."



[www.nemaweb.org](http://www.nemaweb.org)

## ■ NCORP: Evacuating Disabled Must Be a Priority

On November 30, the National Council on Readiness and Preparedness (NCORP) met in Charleston, SC, where they discussed the need for communities to formulate plans for evacuating disabled and special needs residents. Advocates for the handicapped stated that Katrina was the first lesson in which thousands of those who were left behind either were physically unable to rescue themselves or were in the care of someone who was ill-equipped for the disaster. For example, FEMA trailers aren't easily accessible for the handicapped, and there are no national standards covering shelters and the disabled.



Read the December 1 Post and Courier article:

[www.charleston.net](http://www.charleston.net)

[www.ncorp.org](http://www.ncorp.org)

## ■ FDNY's Elite EMS Disaster Specialists

NYC has an elite squad of "combat" paramedics trained to reach and navigate the crevices of collapsed buildings, bridges, tunnels and roads to aid injured and trapped survivors, reports the NY Post. Fifty-two FDNY rescue medics will be ready to work alongside the NYPD and firefighters deep in the rubble of any NYC disaster caused by a terrorist attack or natural catastrophe. They will administer medicine and fluids to victims who previously had to wait hours, or sometimes days, for treatment. "Our Emergency Medical Service can now provide the most advanced pre-hospital care to patients fighting for their lives in the most perilous situations," Chief of EMS John Peruggia said. "With this new training, our paramedics can administer treatment faster than ever before, which could ultimately mean the difference between life and death."



Read the November 27 NY Post article, "EMS Disaster-Master Medics Set for Action":

[www.nypost.com/seven/11272006/news/regionalnews/ems\\_disaster\\_master\\_medics\\_set\\_for\\_action\\_regionalnews\\_erika\\_martinez.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/11272006/news/regionalnews/ems_disaster_master_medics_set_for_action_regionalnews_erika_martinez.htm)

[www.nyc.gov/html/fdny](http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny)

## ■ FEMA Ordered to Resume Katrina Payments

Katrina victims won two court battles this week but both victories could be short-lived. On November 29, a federal judge said the administration must immediately resume housing payments for thousands of people displaced by the hurricane. US District Judge Richard Leon said FEMA mishandled the transition from a short-term housing program to a longer-term program. Until FEMA explains itself and allows victims to appeal, Leon said the government must keep making housing payments.

On November 27, a federal judge in Louisiana said that many homeowners might be entitled to more insurance money for flood damage, but insurers pledged to appeal. US District Judge Stanwood Duval Jr. sided with homeowners who argued that the language in some insurance policies that excluded water damage was ambiguous. If successful, this suit could cost insurers \$1 billion in

Louisiana alone and could lead to similar suits elsewhere.

Read the NY Times November 30 article:

[www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Katrina-Housing.html](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Katrina-Housing.html)

### ■ **Western NY Still Affected by October Snowstorm**

October's early season snowstorm slammed Western NY, leaving at least 400,000 people without power, some for more than a week. Now, 16,000 families have registered for individual assistance with FEMA.



Don Weaver, chair of the new Disaster Recovery Interfaith Network of Western New York, said that "food was an issue because of people being without power for so long. There were long lines at food pantries." He adds, "many others still need debris cleared from their property...and getting limbs and trees removed especially for the disabled and the elderly." The Disaster Recovery Interfaith Network will also help the area better prepare for future disasters - but for now Weaver is urging people to think about current needs.

Read the December 2 DNN article:

[www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=3394](http://www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=3394)

If you wish to become a partner in the Network group, contact Joanne Hale, Church World Service Emergency Response Program:

[jhale@churchworldservice.org](mailto:jhale@churchworldservice.org)

716.773.7935

[www.religiousnet.org](http://www.religiousnet.org)

### ■ **New Communications Center in DC**

On November 28, the National Council on Readiness and Preparedness reports that a new Washington DC command center made up of 18 regional first responders will now be able to communicate with each other and members of federal, regional, state and local governments during an emergency. Through this new Unified Communications Center (UCC), eight years in the making, signals the creation of a new multi-platform and interoperable communications platform that will link emergency management and response in the area. Costing more than \$106 million, it will help eliminate inefficiencies, jammed lines of communication and create a more streamlined approach to emergency management and victim triage.



[www.ucc.octo.dc.gov/ucc/site/default.asp](http://www.ucc.octo.dc.gov/ucc/site/default.asp)

### ■ **FEMA Increases Post-Disaster Rental Assistance**

FEMA has adopted a new interim policy under which it may raise the maximum amount it will pay for rental housing when affordable housing is in short supply after a major disaster. This means that FEMA will be able to increase the authorized amount of rental assistance when it determines that higher market rates have affected the availability of affordable rental housing. This authority applies to counties designated for Individual Assistance in the disaster declaration as well as to non-designated counties that are hosting eligible disaster victims. When a disaster impacts housing availability, prevailing market rates may rise, making it difficult for disaster victims to find affordable rental housing.

Disaster assistance available from FEMA:

[www.fema.gov/assistance/process/assistance.shtm#1](http://www.fema.gov/assistance/process/assistance.shtm#1)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

#### ■ **USDA Guidelines Issued for Farm Preparedness**

Earlier this year, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a series of guidelines designed to help farmers and their employees work towards securing against the threat of a terrorist attack on the nation's food supply. According to the USDA, "Improving awareness through enhanced outreach and communications is a key element of the USDA's homeland security efforts." They include best practices which can be employed through planning, security management and communication: and farmers are urged to develop a risk management plan and cooperate with local law enforcement while at the same time sharing that plan with farm employees.



Download the *Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006* (pdf):

[www.usda.gov/documents/PreHarvestSecurity\\_final.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/documents/PreHarvestSecurity_final.pdf)

#### ■ **Re-Building NO Takes a United Effort**

The Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) is the single, comprehensive recovery and rebuilding plan for Post-Katrina New Orleans, and will be implemented under the auspices of the NO Community Support Foundation. Major funders are The Rockefeller Foundation and the Greater NO Foundation. There is a series of 4 district-level meetings and 3 city-wide meetings being held this Fall. Efforts are being made to videotape these meetings so that they can be viewed online and to establish resource centers at public libraries where displaced residents can view the videos and additional materials.



The next meetings are:

District Meeting 3: Dec 16-17 (Review draft district plans)

District Meeting 4: Jan 6-7 (Final district plans)

Community Congress 3: Jan 13 (Complete draft recovery plan)

For questions about the planning process and rebuilding:  
1.877.527.3284

[www.unifiedneworleansplan.org](http://www.unifiedneworleansplan.org)

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### **FROM OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS**

#### ● **City Opens New OEM Headquarters & EOC**

Mayor Bloomberg and NYC OEM Commissioner Bruno officially opened the new OEM Headquarters and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 165 Cadman Plaza East in Downtown Brooklyn on December 5. The \$50



million facility, all of which was funded by the federal government, serves as the central point of coordination for major emergencies and special events, as well as the day-to-day workspace for OEM planning and response personnel. "OEM plays an important role in ensuring coordination of city agencies during an emergency," said Mayor Bloomberg. "This state-of-the-art facility will help make communication between agencies more seamless so that during an emergency, City resources are easily marshaled and dispatched to areas that need help." Commissioner Bruno added, "NYC is at the forefront of emergency management planning and this new facility will continue to move us forward." NYDIS has a designated seat in the new OEM Emergency Operations Center.

Read about OEM's new headquarters:

[www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/about/about\\_oem\\_headquarters.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/about/about_oem_headquarters.shtml)

[www.nyc.gov/html/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem)

- **ARC Offers Mental Health Aid to All Katrina Evacuees**

The Access to Care program is an initiative of The American Red Cross' (ARC) Hurricane Recovery Program and is administered by Link2Health, a non-profit subsidiary of the Mental Health Association of NYC. Coverage is retroactive to August 30, 2005 and will cover services received on or prior to April 1, 2008 for those who lived in a pre-disaster area designated by FEMA for individual assistance following Katrina, Rita or Wilma and suffered significant impact.



Enroll before October 1, 2007:

866.794.4673

[www.a2care.org/ssl/prescreen.html](http://www.a2care.org/ssl/prescreen.html)

[www.a2care.org](http://www.a2care.org)

- **ARC Guide for Talking About Disaster**

The purpose of *Talking About Disaster: Guide for Standard Messages* is to assist those who provide disaster safety information to the general public. Users of this guide, which contains awareness and action messages intended to help people reduce their risk of injury or loss in the event of natural and human-caused disasters, may include emergency managers, teachers, disaster educators, public affairs/public relations personnel, mitigation specialists, and media communicators. These awareness messages provide general information about the threats presented by each type of disaster and describe what people should do to prepare for and get safely through a disaster.



Download *Talking About Disaster: Guide for Standard Messages*:

[www.redcross.org/disaster/disasterguide/standardmsg.html](http://www.redcross.org/disaster/disasterguide/standardmsg.html)

- **ARC-GNY Preparedness Presentation - Brooklyn**

Prepare New York is a free 45-minute emergency preparedness presentation teaching NYC residents how to create a plan, build a supply kit, and keep loved ones safe and informed during times of disaster. Participants receive an interactive CD that can be used to create a customized evacuation plan and brochures from the ARC and NYC OEM. The next presentations are on Wednesday, December 13, 2:00-3:00 pm at the Howard Senior Center, 1580 East New York Avenue and on Thursday, December 14, 1:00-2:00 pm at the Marcus Garvey Senior Center, 1440 East New York Ave.



718.330.9200

[brooklynoutreach@arcgny.org](mailto:brooklynoutreach@arcgny.org)

[www.nyredcross.org/page.php/prmID/32](http://www.nyredcross.org/page.php/prmID/32)

- **Sikh Coalition Defending Rights for 5 Years**

The Sikh Coalition has worked hard to defend the rights of Sikhs, providing assistance to over 60 Sikhs concerned that they were victims of employment discrimination. Over the past 5 years the Sikh Coalition has defended the rights of more individual Sikhs in America than any other organization ever. As part of commemorating the Sikh Coalition's five year anniversary this year, they have put together a five-part video highlighting their employment discrimination accomplishments, hate crime cases and kirpan discrimination work over these past five years. Parts 2 and 3 are viewable now on the website.



[www.sikhcoalition.org](http://www.sikhcoalition.org)

- **Lutheran Pastors Learned Crisis Strategies at Retreat**

A group of Lutheran pastors learned how to care for themselves and others during a recent Comfort & Renew Retreat sponsored by LDRNY and partner Faithful Response. "Strategies for Pastors During Times of Crisis and Anxiety," held at St. Ignatius Retreat House on Long Island in November, featured five presentations from the Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke.



[www.ldrny.org](http://www.ldrny.org)

- **Abraham's Day: National Day of Goodwill**

On Saturday, January 6, 2007, ICNA Relief USA will present "Abraham's Day: A National Day of Goodwill Towards Mankind". Local human service and religious organizations will work together to support the needy and homeless in our communities. Volunteers are wanted to collect and distribute new winter clothes such as coats, hats, gloves, warm blankets, and boots. Also collected will be toys and diapers, and non-perishable food items such as canned goods, rice, flour, baby food, and formula. Local drop-off centers will be set up to



collect these donations in participating cities, which will then be distributed at local shelters and mosques. NYDIS, a proud co-sponsor of this effort, reminds you that these are the supplies to keep on hand in case of emergencies.

To learn how you can volunteer and to get more information, please contact Sr. Malika Rushdan:  
718.658.7028

[malika@icnarelief.org](mailto:malika@icnarelief.org)

Download the Flyer (pdf):  
[www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet\\_52\\_Abrahams.pdf](http://www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet_52_Abrahams.pdf)

[www.icnarelief.org](http://www.icnarelief.org)

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## PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVES

- **Downloadable Ready NY Preparedness Guides**

OEM's Ready NY preparedness campaign is designed to help New Yorkers better prepare for all types of emergencies. The following preparedness guides and brochures are available online:



- Beat the Heat
- Emergency Planning for Small & Mid-Sized Companies
- Hurricanes and New York City
- Pet Preparedness
- Ready NY Household Preparedness Guide
- Ready NY: Pocket Guide
- Seniors & People with Disabilities

To download these guides, [click here](#).

[www.nyc.gov/html/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem)

- **Prepare for Heating Season**

As cooler temperatures arrive, NYC OEM encourages New Yorkers to learn safe heating practices for their homes. Improper heating can lead to gas leaks and fires, and safe heating can prevent such emergencies.



Guidelines:

[www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/hazards/winter\\_tips.shtml#safeheating](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/hazards/winter_tips.shtml#safeheating)

[www.nyc.gov/html/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem)

- **NYC OEM's Tip This Week: Stash Cash**

As you set aside cash for the holidays this season, consider stashing some of that cash for emergencies. OEM recommends New Yorkers keep a small amount of cash in their Go Bags. In

the event of a widespread power outage, ATMs will not work and merchants may be unable to accept credit cards. If your budget allows, it's a good idea to have a small amount of cash on hand for any type of emergency.

[www.nyc.gov/html/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem)

- **FEMA's Helpline Telephone Numbers**

Information on the status of disaster assistance and other needs is just a phone call away. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) and NYS's toll-free helpline numbers are available for those who have questions once they have registered. Callers may check the status of their application for assistance from the Upstate NY storms and floods; and get answers and referrals to applicable agencies and organizations.

The FEMA Helpline is 800.621.FEMA (3362) and is open 8:00 am-8:00 pm daily.

Learn how to get help:

[www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=29719](http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=29719)

- **SEMO Offers Winter Safety Tips**

The NYS Emergency Management Office (SEMO) offers *Preparedness Through Awareness*, a winter preparedness guide that includes tips on Home Safety, Neighborhood Safety, Road Safety and Outdoor Safety.



Download SEMO's Winter Guide (pdf):

[www.semo.state.ny.us/info/publicsafety/winterGuide.pdf](http://www.semo.state.ny.us/info/publicsafety/winterGuide.pdf)

[www.semo.state.ny.us/index.cfm](http://www.semo.state.ny.us/index.cfm)

- **CDC: Disaster Plans Now Include Pets**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) public health veterinarians recognized that there are health concerns related to involuntary pet-owner separation and animal loss (e.g., mental health/resilience issues for both victims and responders), but most important is the recognition that a lack of plans and resources to evacuate pets with their owners is a primary reason why citizens will refuse to evacuate in the face of imminent life-threatening danger. Thanks to lessons learned during Katrina, pets are now included in several states' emergency preparedness and response plans, and there is a new Federal law, the Pet Evacuation Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2006. It requires that state and local governments include household pets in emergency evacuation plans and authorizes the use of funds to "procure, construct, or renovate emergency shelter facilities and materials that will temporarily accommodate people with pets and service animals" and to provide "rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs...to such pets and animals."



Read the November CDC Press Release:  
[www.cdc.gov/about/news/2006\\_11/katrina.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/about/news/2006_11/katrina.htm)

Learn about the PETS Act on the Humane Society website:  
[www.hsus.org/legislation\\_laws/federal\\_legislation/companion\\_animals/2005\\_PETS\\_evacuation.html](http://www.hsus.org/legislation_laws/federal_legislation/companion_animals/2005_PETS_evacuation.html)

- **Preparing Non-Profits for Disasters**

The Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of NY (NPCCNY), an information source for NY nonprofit agencies since 1984, has just published *Disaster Planning, Emergency Preparedness & Business Continuity*, a guideline on how an organization can prepare its own disaster recovery plan so that, should an interruption occur, it is able to resume operations.



Download the *Disaster Planning, Emergency Preparedness & Business Continuity* Report:

[www.npccny.org/info/disaster\\_plan.htm](http://www.npccny.org/info/disaster_plan.htm)

[www.npccny.org](http://www.npccny.org)

- **Flu Preparedness**

- **Report on DOD Preparations for Pandemic**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that the Defense Department (DOD) has made significant progress in planning its response to a flu pandemic, but it has more work to complete. In a recent report, GAO recommended that DOD: define and communicate roles and responsibilities, oversight mechanisms, goals and performance measures; establish a framework to request funding tied to goals; decide which types of employees to include in any vaccine or antiviral drug distribution, and communicate that information; and implement a comprehensive department-wide communications strategy.



Read the September 2006 GAO Report (pdf):  
[reform.house.gov/UploadedFiles/d061042\\_1.pdf](http://reform.house.gov/UploadedFiles/d061042_1.pdf)

[www.dod.gov](http://www.dod.gov)

- **NYC Cited for Preparedness in New Study**

NYC is one of two cities that are mentioned as examples for investing wisely in pandemic preparedness, based on several critical actions. These include responding to early recognition by key public and private sector leaders of the hazard and the need to aggressively prepare; obtaining elected-official support for preparedness measures; building coalitions to enhance preparedness that include the healthcare and business sectors, community-based organizations, first responders, critical infrastructure agencies, and emergency managers; reaching out to the general public through an ongoing education and information campaign, reminding the public of the need



for personal and family preparedness for all-hazards, including a flu pandemic; and recognizing that preparedness goals, activities, and resources must include the most vulnerable of our citizens.

Read the Observer article:

[www.colorado.edu/hazards/o/archives/2006/nov06/nov06a.html](http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/o/archives/2006/nov06/nov06a.html)

- **Rapid Flu Tests Recommended**

A study published on November 23 in the New England Journal of Medicine found that because detecting Avian Flu with standard tests is so difficult and time-consuming, waiting for lab confirmation of an outbreak would cause dangerous treatment delays. The studies were of families in Turkey and Indonesia.



Read the New England Journal of Medicine study (pdf):

[www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet\\_54\\_NEJM.pdf](http://www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet_54_NEJM.pdf)

- **Planning for Flu: Telework Likely**

The Government Health IT website reports that although the avian flu has shown no signs so far of having the ability to be transmitted from one person to another, federal agencies have begun planning in case it does. A slight mutation in the virus that causes avian flu could make it contagious among humans. Even if avian flu is not the source, officials say they believe another flu pandemic of some sort is likely to occur and that a much greater number of people that will be uninfected might need to telework for a longer period of time than that for which most agencies are prepared. "Agencies that provide citizen services need to factor that into their planning," said Steve Cooper, former chief information officer at DHS and now CIO at ARC, "telework plays a big role for our folks, but not for the folks we deliver services to."



Read the article:

[govhealthit.com/article96675-11-06-06-Print](http://govhealthit.com/article96675-11-06-06-Print)

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## SAVE THE DATE

- **Interfaith Service for 9/11 Families**

Saturday, December 16 at 12:30 pm  
St. Paul's Chapel, Lower Manhattan



The annual Service of Remembrance for the families of those lost on 9/11, as well as survivors, and rescue and recovery workers is hosted by Voices of September 11th. The program will feature a candle-lighting service, interfaith prayers, and music. The entire 9/11 community is welcome. Space for the service is limited and reservations are required.

Please RSVP:  
[events@voicesofsept11.org](mailto:events@voicesofsept11.org)

[www.voicesofsept11.org](http://www.voicesofsept11.org)

- **"The Ripple Effect" Preparedness Conference**

Tuesday, February 6 - Wednesday, 7, 2007  
National Press Club, Washington, DC



"Homeland Security: The Ripple Effect" emergency disaster preparedness conference will explore the cascading impacts of terrorism and natural disasters on smaller communities and address the resources, planning, and training needed to prepare for such an event. Practitioners in emergency and disaster management, and homeland security will mix practice with policy to develop a systematic approach to assist communities in responding to future disasters.

For registration information:  
888.767.5561 Toll Free  
703.683.5561  
[events@apus.edu](mailto:events@apus.edu)

To Register Online:  
[www.e-ventcentral.com/event.registry/RippleEffectSymposium](http://www.e-ventcentral.com/event.registry/RippleEffectSymposium)

[www.apus.edu/disaster](http://www.apus.edu/disaster)

- **Disaster Planning for the Careless Conference**

Thursday, February 8 - Friday, February 9, 2007  
University of New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA

Katrina and Rita revealed how vulnerable carless residents are in emergency situations; and that evacuation plans in most major cities fail to adequately take into account the needs of the elderly, disabled, and transit dependent populations. The goal of the National Conference on Disaster Planning for the Carless Society conference is to bring together government officials, professionals, and experts to discuss how we can better prepare for those that are in most need, and will seek to better integrate the fields of transportation planning, emergency management, and healthcare.

Information and registration:  
[conferences.uno.edu/confCalendar\(CUPA\).htm](http://conferences.uno.edu/confCalendar(CUPA).htm)


Download Brochure:  
[www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet\\_54\\_Careless.pdf](http://www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet_54_Careless.pdf)

[www.carlessevacuation.org](http://www.carlessevacuation.org)

- **NEMA Mid-Year Conference**

Saturday, February 10 - Wednesday, February 14, 2007  
Alexandria, VA





Registration for the 2007 NEMA Mid-Year Conference at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia is now open. Hear from those involved in shaping the future of homeland security and emergency management, and share views on all hazards emergency preparedness with the leadership in Washington. Register by Friday, December 15 and receive \$50 off your conference registration fee.

For Online Registration:

[www.nemaweb.org/register\\_mid07/Select\\_Type.cfm](http://www.nemaweb.org/register_mid07/Select_Type.cfm)

Contact Karen L. Cobuluis, Meeting & Marketing Coordinator:  
859.244.8143

[kcobuluis@csg.org](mailto:kcobuluis@csg.org)

[www.nemaweb.org](http://www.nemaweb.org)

- **15th Annual VOAD Conference April 2007**

Tuesday, April 17 - Friday, April 20, 2007  
Albuquerque, New Mexico



"Partnerships in Motion" is the subject for VOAD's 15th annual conference. The conference will begin with the kick-off reception and dinner the evening of April 17, plenary sessions and workshops April 18 and 19, and a closing plenary the morning of April 20 that will summarize the conference outcomes and declare the priorities for the year. Information on workshops, registration, and agenda schedule will be coming soon.

[www.nvoad.org](http://www.nvoad.org)

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## WE RECOMMEND

- **Post Your Resources on NYDIS.org**

Do you have a useful resource for caseworkers, recovery providers and clients that you would like to submit? The [NYDIS Resource Library](#) on our website contains a large compilation of disaster resources including downloadable documents, links to useful websites, and references to printed publications. We welcome your agency's resources, which can be posted on NYDIS.org by clicking on the "Resources" Tab. You will then find directions on how to [Submit a Resource](#)".



[www.nydis.org](http://www.nydis.org)

- **EPA's Website Offers Preparedness Resources**

EPA works with a variety of private and public entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to spills and other environmental emergencies. EPA's website provides information about these activities, links to the key groups

involved in contingency planning and response, and provides information on how to report hazardous substance and oil spills.

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

- **Ready.gov Offers Guidelines for Disability Preparedness**

DHS urges those with disabilities and special needs to start preparing now in case of a disaster or an emergency. The "Preparing Makes Sense" guide outlines common sense measures, such as making a supply kit, making a plan with a personal support network, and how to stay informed.



Download the Brochure (pdf):

[www.ready.gov/america/downloads/disabilities.pdf](http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/disabilities.pdf)

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

- **NYC Citizen Corps Monthly Newsletter**

The December issue of the Citizen Corps newsletter recommends that we all make preparations for winter emergencies and the flu season. The issue's featured topic is planning for pandemic flu, with links to more in-depth information to help you prepare.



Download the December 2006 Newsletter (pdf):

[www.citizencorps.gov/pdf/newsletter/cc-newsletter-dec2006.pdf](http://www.citizencorps.gov/pdf/newsletter/cc-newsletter-dec2006.pdf)

[www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)

- **WHO Communications Guides for Health Emergencies**

The World Health Organization (WHO) offers these effective media communication guides to be used during public health emergencies:



- **Handbook:** describes a seven-step process to assist officials and others to communicate effectively through the media during emergencies.

[Download](#) (pdf)

- **Field Guide:** is a shortened version of the Handbook that highlights the practical aspects of the seven-step approach.

[Download](#) (pdf)

- **Wall Chart:** shows the seven-step approach and provides easily recalled key information and advice.

[Download](#) (pdf)

[www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO\\_CDS\\_2005\\_31/en](http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_CDS_2005_31/en)

- **SBA Offers Disaster Loans**

The US Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest disaster loans for renters,



homeowners and businesses of all sizes. The SBA loan application is also used to evaluate the applicant's ongoing needs, even if that person does not receive an SBA disaster loan. The SBA provides various types of loans for businesses of all sizes and homeowners and renters in the event of a disaster. This includes physical disaster loans, economic injury loans, military reservists' loans and home and personal property loans.

For program information or to receive a status update on a disaster loan request:

800.659.2955 from 8:00 am to Midnight (EST), Monday through Saturday

[disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)

[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

- **Journal of Muslim Mental Health Free Online**

The Journal of Muslim Mental Health is available for free online, providing an academic forum for exploring social, cultural, historical, theological, and psychological factors related to the mental health of the Muslim community. It addresses the need for mental health professionals and institutions to provide a culturally and religiously responsive approach to their Muslim clients. Dr. Hamada Hamid, Managing Editor, states, "Because mental health professionals may have difficulty dealing with cultural and religious aspects of patients' lives, the Journal is intended to provide research, as well as practical advice, for patient care."



Subscribe to the Journal or order a Sample Copy:  
800.354.1420 x216

[customerservice@taylorandfrancis.com](mailto:customerservice@taylorandfrancis.com)

Contact Dr. Hamada Hamid:

[journal@muslimmentalhealth.com](mailto:journal@muslimmentalhealth.com)

[www.muslimmentalhealth.com](http://www.muslimmentalhealth.com)

- **Tribute WTC Visitor Center Open Daily**

Daily Walking Tours led by participants in these events provide uniquely personal perspectives on the events of February 26, 1993 and September 11, 2001. The Center will remain in place until the permanent WTC Memorial and Museum are completed.



Are you interested in being a volunteer? Contact:  
Rachael Grygorcewicz  
212.422.3520

[volunteer@tributenyc.org](mailto:volunteer@tributenyc.org)

[www.tributenyc.org](http://www.tributenyc.org)

- **NY Architect Designs Katrina Cottage**

Marianne Cusato's award-winning design for



the Hurricane Katrina Cottage is specifically designed to withstand a hurricane and is an alternative to the trailers supplied by FEMA.



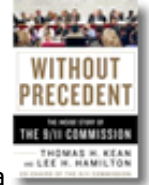
For more information about the Lowe's Katrina Cottage Series:  
1.800.44.LOWES

Contact Cusato Cottages:  
[info@cusatocottages.com](mailto:info@cusatocottages.com)

[www.cusatocottages.com/index\\_content.html](http://www.cusatocottages.com/index_content.html)

- **Book Review: *Without Precedent***

In *Without Precedent: The Inside Story of the 9/11 Commission*, according to the commission's co-chairmen, Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, "this is the compelling inside story of how the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the US managed to succeed against all odds in producing a report that made clear what went wrong and why."



This book details the story of how the commission came together to produce its landmark, widely heralded report. In the NY Times Book Review, James Bamford states that the book "...provides a keyhole view of the commission's bureaucratic war with a White House obsessed with secrecy and control."

Read the entire NY Times Book Review:

[www.nytimes.com/2006/08/20/books/review/20Bamford.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/20/books/review/20Bamford.html)

- **PlainViews: E-Newsletter for Spiritual Care Providers**

Subscribe to this bi-monthly e-newsletter offering views on Professional Practice, Advocacy, Education & Research, and Spiritual Development. Sponsored by the HealthCare Chaplaincy in NYC and edited by NYDIS Board President The Rev. Dr. Martha Jacobs.



Send your email address to:

[info@plainviews.org](mailto:info@plainviews.org)

[www.plainviews.org](http://www.plainviews.org)

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## **JOB AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- **NYDIS, Office Assistant/Receptionist**

NYDIS seeks an Office Assistant/Receptionist to provide daily administrative support to the executive director and receptionist functions for a staff of 13 professionals. This is a full-time position and is available immediately. Hours are flexible and well suited for students.



Duties include providing professional and friendly front office reception, answering telephones, sorting mail and preparing outgoing mail, parcels and bulk mailings, scheduling meetings in conference rooms, maintaining Email and Outlook databases, and office correspondence. A Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience is desired with exceptional oral and written communications skills, organizational skills, and proficiency in MS Word, Excel, and Outlook. Experience working with non-profits and/or religious institutions preferred. Deadline: December 15, 2006 (no phone calls).

[Download Position Details](#) (pdf)

Please email (preferred), mail or fax a 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](mailto:pgudaitis@nydis.org)  
Fax: 212.669.6101

- **NYDIS, Office Volunteers**

We are seeking office volunteers to support the finance and disaster preparedness/training departments, and to answer phones and perform administrative duties for 20 hours per week. Positions begin immediately.



To apply, please email your Cover Letter and Resume to: [pgudaitis@nydis.org](mailto:pgudaitis@nydis.org) or fax to 212.669.6101.

- **NYC OEM, Emergency Preparedness Specialists/Managers**

**Specialist/Transportation & Infrastructure Planner** ([JVN 061](#))

In the Transportation and Infrastructure Unit within the Planning and Preparedness Division, will develop citywide emergency plans and provide technical advice to City agencies regarding their emergency planning efforts for transportation and infrastructure emergencies.



**Manager/Director of Plan Management** ([JVN062](#))

In the Planning and Preparedness Division, will oversee a team of Plan Managers to develop, maintain and manage Citywide emergency plans.

**Specialist/Plan Manager** ([JVN063](#))

In the Planning and Preparedness Division, under supervision from the Director of Plan Management, will develop and maintain Citywide emergency plans and develop and maintain Plan Management policies.

**Manager/Director of Logistics** ([JVN064](#))

In the Planning and Preparedness Division, will manage a team of planners to create operational logistics plans and detailed logistics procedures for emergency response.

### **Specialist/Human Services Specialist (JVN065)**

In the Planning and Preparedness–Human Services Division, will write detailed emergency response plans that describe complex operations to address the needs of disaster victims.

To apply to these positions, please submit Resume and Cover Letter to:  
165 Cadman Plaza  
East Brooklyn, NY 11201

[jobs@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:jobs@oem.nyc.gov)

- **Volunteers Needed for Upstate NY Flood Recovery Efforts**

Last week's new flooding piled more damage and emotional stress on western New York communities still recovering from the June floods. With hundreds of homes with water in the basements, the area badly needs volunteers who can help repair homes; and there aren't enough crisis counselors to address the mental health needs of the flood survivors.

Contact Dottie Baer, Conklin Presbyterian Flood Relief Volunteer Center:  
607.775.0790  
[www.disastervolunteers.org/ops/info.php?desc=182](http://www.disastervolunteers.org/ops/info.php?desc=182)

Kevin Page, FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison:  
607.722.6545

Yvonne Newell, Director of Project Recovery in Broome, Tioga and Delaware Counties:  
607.770.8800

- **NDART, Volunteer to Help Animals in Disasters**

The Humane Society of the US' (HSUS) National Disaster Animal Response Team (NDART) consists of animal care professionals, emergency services and rescue professionals. Team members are trained in community disaster response and preparedness as well as specialized response techniques for rescuing animals affected by disasters. To prepare yourself to help animals in a disaster, there are courses offered by FEMA and ARC.



To find out more about the program and the recommended courses:

[www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/volunteer\\_for\\_the\\_hsus\\_disaster\\_animal\\_response\\_team.html](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/volunteer_for_the_hsus_disaster_animal_response_team.html)

To apply to become a Team member, fill out the application at:

[www.ndart.org](http://www.ndart.org)

[www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

- **Help Keep New Yorkers Safe - Be a Lifeguard**

The NYC Parks' lifeguard program gives you



the chance to be a part of an organization that is committed to serving the public. NYC Parks beaches are open in 2007 from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and the pools are open from late June through Labor Day. Lifeguards work 48 hours each week.



Get more information:

[Online Information](#)  
[Brochure](#) (pdf)

[www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov)

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## MAKE A GIFT TO NYDIS

- **Support NYDIS - Donate 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 online, go to the NYDIS homepage and click "Make a Donation":

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