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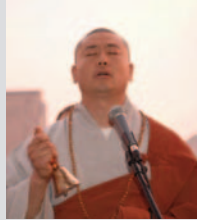
**EMILY STONEHAM**  
AmeriCorps\*VISTA Member



NDIN is a Sub-Site of NYDIS's AmeriCorps\*VISTA program under the Corporation for National & Community Service, New York State Office.

## OUR MISSION

NDIN is a network of disaster interfaith organizations working together to reduce disaster-caused human suffering through the exchange of information and cooperative support.



Dear Religious Leader,

Are you building an interfaith disaster readiness, response, or recovery network in your community? Would you like to join colleagues in exchanging wisdom, experiences, and resources to better your ministry? We cordially invite you to join NDIN's network of local, regional, and state disaster interfaith organizations and their senior leaders to identify best practices, to network, and to provide peer support. NDIN offers our member agencies and their senior leaders access to mentors; an excellent online resource-sharing library; a bi-weekly e-newsletter to keep you informed about national disaster mitigation, preparedness, and recovery initiatives of interest to faith communities; and opportunities for attending conferences and trainings including our Annual NDIN Networking & Training Conference. Join us in building disaster resilient communities - together!

The NDIN Board

## NDIN PROVIDES:

- Executive mentors
- Online resource library
- Training opportunities
- Free e-newsletter
- Recovery best practices
- Networking
- Professional development
- Annual conference

## NDIN MEMBERS:

1. **ARE** an intentionally inclusive interfaith disaster organization in membership, leadership, and services
2. **RECOGNIZE** the cyclical nature of disaster
3. **PROVIDE** disaster human services free from proselytizing and religious content
4. **SUPPORT** the provision of spiritual care and disaster chaplaincy that is appropriate and sensitive to all faiths
5. **STRIVE** for ethnic and cultural competency
6. **PARTICIPATE** with VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) regionally or nationally
7. **ENCOURAGE** local judicatories to have a relationship with their national disaster ministries
8. **PARTNER** with government, business, and other non-profits
9. **ARE TRANSPARENT** in all areas of governance and accountable in services provided
10. **SHARE** best practices and resources

## HISTORY:

The National Disaster Interfaiths Network (NDIN) was founded in 2005 by executive directors and senior program staff from local, faith-based, long-term recovery organizations. Often called “disaster interfaiths,” these organizations are located throughout the United States. They began to meet regularly to mentor and provide peer support to colleagues coordinating emerging local interfaith recovery efforts for the 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Since the 1990s, with the short-term resources and support of National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) members and Church World Service, a number of disaster interfaiths have done exceptional work bringing together local faith communities to coordinate relief volunteers and long-term recovery leadership. Importantly, they also have worked together to offer hope in the aftermath of disaster. These disaster interfaiths achieved much despite limitations in disaster human services expertise, funding, and experience. Such challenges took their toll, however, and a substantial amount of the organizations were unable to sustain funding and leadership beyond the early stages of recovery.

As a result of the impact of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, followed by other best practices learned in Midwestern floods, California wildfires, the extreme 2003 and 2004 Florida Hurricane seasons, and the catastrophic events of Hurricane Katrina, a growing number of disaster interfaiths have begun to develop sustainable advocacy, mitigation, readiness, response, and recovery programs.

The executive directors and senior program staff of these disaster interfaiths often receive short-term support during active recovery efforts and at national events. In the long-term, however, they report feelings of isolation and a need for peer support, guidance on identifying training, program best practices, and funding. They also have emerging needs for identifying technological tools and regular peer support for exploring administrative, fundraising, and governance opportunities for leading interfaith disaster human service organizations. To address these common interests and needs of disaster interfaiths and their leaders, the National Disaster Interfaiths Network (NDIN) was launched at the 2007 National VOAD Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was incorporated with the State of New York in December 2007, and has filed to be a non-profit 501(c)(3).

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