

NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable

Founded in 2001, the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable aims to provide financial assistance to those impacted by the 9/11 disaster and to support personal recovery in cases when other 9/11 or public assistance programs are not available. A diverse group of donor organizations comes together weekly, offering referrals and insight, as well as monetary assistance to clients based on the advocacy of caseworkers. The Roundtable is often the last resource for the hidden victims of September 11. These are the un- and underemployed, the un- and underdocumented, the injured, the traumatized, and those who have exhausted all other aid, like FEMA, unemployment, or public assistance. Some weren't eligible for other aid because of immigration status or geographic restrictions. For these people, the faith community is a beacon of hope.

Through 2003 LDRNY provided close to \$1 million at the Roundtable in direct financial assistance to those affected by the disaster. These funds were used largely for basic needs like rent, utilities, clothing, food, and healthcare. LDRNY also offered grants to small-business owners, paid tuition, childcare, and summer-camp expenses. It has pledged to continue assisting the hidden victims of 9/11 as long as there is a need.

Among the casework and social service agencies that present at the Table are the Alianza Dominicana, Asian-American Federation of New York, Catholic Charities, FEGS, the Legal Aid Society, The Salvation Army, and the Islamic Circle of North America. The donors include the United Methodist Committee on Relief, Safe Horizon, Presbytery of New York, International Orthodox Christian Charities, The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, the Bridge Fund and Episcopal Charities. LDRNY is pleased to stand among such distinguished and compassionate friends in this recovery effort.

The 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable is currently facilitated by New York Disaster Interfaith Services. *For more information, contact Mikki Baloy, Coordinator, mikki@LDRNY.org.*



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LDRNY MISSION STATEMENT

To respond directly and encourage and facilitate response from others to the needs of persons and their families affected both directly and indirectly by tragedy or disaster.

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Back in business

Doro, a fruit and vegetable vendor who worked on Church Street near Ground Zero for 20 years, lost his vending cart and suffered substantial damages to his truck on Sept. 11. His pushcart business was the only livelihood he had known, having sold produce since he was a teenager. LDRNY, through the Roundtable, provided him with funds to repair the truck, secure a current vending permit, and buy a new pushcart, a total financial package of almost \$4,000. He returned to lower Manhattan, looking forward to renewing his relationships with downtown customers and supporting his wife and two children.

Seeking employment

Susan, an accountant, lost her job on Sept. 11, but was confident that she would find other employment quickly because of her experience and references. She did not seek any financial help from federal or private resources because she thought they were for "needier people." She considered herself lucky to have escaped uninjured. Unfortunately, her job search was unsuccessful. Her daughter dropped out of college in order to work, and Susan started to fall behind in her bills. By the time she realized she needed assistance, many financial aid deadlines had passed. At the Roundtable, LDRNY provided her with \$3,000 in aid, mostly for clothing, food and pharmacy expenses. As Susan was aggressive in her job search, we're confident that she went on to find profitable work to support herself and her daughter.