

**Reverend Willard W.C. Ashley Sr.**, DMin, DH, a psychotherapist, is the founder and senior pastor of Abundant Joy Community Church in Jersey City, New Jersey. In addition, Will is the Director of Field Education and Associate Professor of Practical Theology at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He is the co-editor of *Disaster Spiritual Care: Practical Clergy Responses to Community, Regional and National Tragedy*.

Will was project director for Care for the Caregivers Interfaith Program, the largest clergy resiliency program in the United States, created to assist caregivers in New York after 9/11. He also serves as a consultant on disaster recovery and clergy self-care to congregations and Fortune 100 companies; and is a board member of Disaster Chaplaincy Services. Will is an ordained minister in the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; Disciples of Christ; and the American Baptist Churches, USA.



**Arturo Guzman**, a Bronx native, has taught high school for many years in the borough and now is the department chair of theology at Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers. He holds two master degrees (one in recreation administration and another in theology), along with a doctorate in theological studies.

In 1995, Arturo began volunteering for the American Red Cross, where he taught health and safety classes for six years. On 9/11, he was deployed to Ground Zero, working in mass care. Later, he was sent to the 9/11 morgue for chaplaincy duties. A member of the chapter's Bronx Disaster Action Team, a response team deployed on a moment's notice to local emergencies, he quickly advanced to team captain.

Arturo said he feels richly rewarded by the smiles and thanks he receives from the people he helps. His greatest joy is to see some of those people become volunteers. "One person can help one other person, who can help one other person, and from there it becomes contagious," said Arturo. Arturo has been the recipient of many awards for his volunteer service.



#### Conference Planning Committee

Ian Anderson, Salvation Army	Christine Jackson, ARC
Ann Daniels, CERT	Justin Land, NYC OEM
Jaime Denniston-Merced, New York Cares	Andrew Perricone-Dazzo, New York Cares
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4th Annual Disaster Volunteer Conference

# SURVIVING HELP: VOLUNTEERING IN A HEALTHY WAY

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

4:00 - 8:00 PM

Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House

1 Bowling Green

New York City, NY 10004

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

- 4:00 - 5:45** Registration, Tabling Event, and Dinner
- 6:00 - 6:10** Welcome, *Joseph Bruno, Commissioner, NYC Office of Emergency Management*
- 6:10 - 6:40** Keynote Address, *Virginia Mewborn*
- 6:50 - 7:30** Panel Discussion  
*John Berglund (Moderator)*  
*Gail Wolsk, LMSW*  
*Dr. Rev. Will Ashley*  
*Arturo Guzman*
- 7:30 - 7:55** Questions
- 7:55 - 8:00** Closing Remarks

**John Berglund**, who previously served as The Salvation Army's national coordinator of Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) at its national headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, transferred into New York City to accept the position of EDS Director in July 2007.

John has an extensive twenty-five year history in non-profit management, with an emphasis in strategic planning and has been working specifically in emergency response and recovery services for The Salvation Army for the past decade. He has worked at every governance level of the institution while serving in Arizona, California, and Virginia. During John's national tenure, he oversaw The Salvation Army's National Disaster Training Program, and developed and piloted training curricula throughout the country.

John also serves as a master trainer for The Salvation Army's International Emergency Services based in London. Since 2003, he has served on response teams or conducted emergency management training in multiple countries, including Iraq, Kuwait, India, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Rwanda, Taiwan, and most recently, Haiti, where he served for five weeks following the January 12 earthquake as incident commander of the Salvation Army response.



**Virginia Mewborn** is the Assistant Commissioner of Training and Exercises at the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM). She manages the development and implementation of citywide exercises and training programs. She has coordinated major drills including PODEX, a vaccine dispensing drill, TRIFECTA, a chemical attack drill, and HurrEx, a coastal storm drill. Before joining OEM, she was the Senior Director of Emergency Services at the American Red Cross in Greater New York.

During her time at the Red Cross, Ms. Mewborn responded to numerous disasters, including initiating the American Red Cross response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Virginia received the Partnership Award from the Northeast Region in 2000 and the Tiffany Award from the American Red Cross in 1994.

Virginia has a bachelor's degree in urban studies from Georgia State University and is a graduate of the National Preparedness Leadership Institute at Harvard University.



**Gail Wolsk, LMSW**, is a leading expert in the field of disaster mental health. During the past eight years, she has been instrumental in creating the mental health response program for disasters in New York City. In her position as the Deputy Director for Programs at Project Liberty, Gail developed and managed services for the largest crisis counseling program developed at that time, for all those impacted by the tragedy of 9-11.

In her current position as Director of the Office of Mental Health Disaster Preparedness and Response within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), Gail promotes the integration of mental health considerations into all hazard disaster response planning.

Gail began her career working as a social worker with children and families, and then spent more than 15 years working as a supervisor and administrator for outreach, shelter, drop-in-center and housing programs for homeless mentally ill persons.

Gail received the DOHMH Distinguished Service Award in 2007 for her dedicated work in the field of disaster mental health.