



Southern Tier/Finger Lakes VOAD
Engaging Faith Community

September 16, 2014

Lynda Lowin, Catholic Charities
Joyce VanSkiver, Catholic Charities
Tammy VanVleck, Institute for Human Services
Carol Wood, Institute for Human Services

Brief notes from our meeting with Catholic Charities regarding how to engage the faith community in the work of the ST/FL VOAD.

Following a brief overview of the history of the ST/FL VOAD, the STRVC Disaster Volunteer Management project, and the Steering Committee's support for conducting work through subcommittees, we discussed how to connect with members of the faith community and assess their willingness/capacity for participating in disaster preparedness activities. We decided that it was likely that faith organizations would want to be involved in recovery should a situation occur in their community, and that we could use that to introduce this work, encourage participation and overcome potential barriers. We also acknowledged that it might be difficult to convene a meeting without first making personal connections to increase awareness and identify potential barriers.

Lynda and Joyce will reach out to individuals they know (representing Methodist, Mennonite, Wesleyan, Catholic denominations, and Churches of the Twin Tiers, among others), and Carol will develop a preliminary survey for assessing interest/capacity. It is hoped that those contacted will have ideas for additional connections, and be willing to facilitate further introductions.

We will also review the results of the Disaster Volunteer survey, and 2-1-1 HELPLINE is reviewing NY VOAD and NVOAD member services for possible inclusion in its disaster services database.

Next meeting scheduled for October 14 at Catholic Charities.

The next regular ST/FL VOAD meeting will be scheduled for October, agenda items and program ideas to Carol Wood.

ST/FL VOAD materials & resources available at www.ihsnet.org (Services, ST-FL VOAD).

