OFFICE OF FAITH & NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

October 2026 Newsletter

Greetings and welcome back! Please use this newsletter for information on upcoming events, funding opportunities, and resources to ensure your organizations can thrive.

Faith in Action: Creating Communities of Safety and Support

The October 2026 newsletter, themed “Faith in Action: Creating Communities of Safety and Support,” recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month and highlights the vital role faith leaders and nonprofit organizations play in supporting survivors and strengthening communities. Director Caura N. Richardson emphasizes compassion, confidentiality, and access to critical resources, while the newsletter spotlights faith leaders and nonprofits across New York State working to promote safety, advocacy, and community well-being. This edition also shares grant funding resources, assistance with Statewide Financial System (SFS) enrollment, immigration legal assistance for individuals affected by Temporary Protected Status (TPS) changes, and highlights of recent OFNDS activities. Additionally, it recognizes October’s diverse religious observances and encourages continued collaboration, community engagement, and partnerships among faith-based and nonprofit organizations statewide.

Recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As we recognize **Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October**, we are reminded of the important role faith and nonprofit leaders play in supporting individuals and families experiencing crisis. Houses of worship and community organizations are often among the first places people turn when they are seeking safety, guidance, and a trusted person who will listen. I encourage our faith and nonprofit partners across New York State to help ensure that those in need know that they are not alone and confidential support is available. Advocates are standing by 24/7, with assistance available in most languages.

Call: 800-942-6906
Text: 844-997-2121
Online resources and chat: https://opdv.ny.gov

Together, we can help connect survivors with support, safety, and hope.

LIVE CHAT 24/7

FIND A PROVIDER

Faith Leaders of New York Spotlight Monthly Feature

Recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Reverend

Karen Malcolm

Executive Director; Healing a Woman's Soul (Slingerlands, NY)

hawsalbany@gmail.com

Q: How has your professional experience with domestic violence shaped the way you support people seeking help through your faith community?

A: My experience has taught me that one of the most important things we can do is listen without judgment. People need to know they are believed, supported, and not pressured into making an immediate decision. In the faith community, I try to create a safe space while also connecting individuals with trained professionals and resources that protect their safety and dignity.

Q: What are some signs that a person may be experiencing domestic violence, and how can faith leaders respond with care while respecting their safety and choices?

A: Signs can include isolation, fear or anxiety, unexplained injuries, changes in behavior, or limited access to money, transportation, or social activities. Faith leaders should respond with compassion, listen carefully, protect confidentiality, and avoid pressuring someone to leave or confronting an abusive partner. Our role is to support, provide resources, and respect the survivor's choices – Never be an added issue.

Q: What steps can houses of worship take to become safer, more informed places for survivors; and what resources or partnerships do you recommend?

A: Houses of worship should train clergy and ministry leaders on domestic violence, trauma-informed care, confidentiality, and referrals. They should also build partnerships with local domestic violence organizations, shelters, legal services, counselors, and government agencies. Making hotline and support information easily available and clearly communicating that abuse is never justified by faith or scripture AND can help survivors know they have a safe place to turn.

October 2026 OFNDS WEBINAR:
Have You Served by Air, Land or Sea? Getting to Know the Veterans Who Serve New York.

Date: Thursday, November 19th, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM

REGISTRATION LINK: Register Here for FREE

Military service is an important part of the stories of many people who serve New York State. Behind their everyday roles are experiences of dedication, teamwork, leadership, and service that continue to shape their contributions to our communities.

Join us for a Veterans Month webinar highlighting veterans in state service. This session will explore opportunities to recognize their contributions, better understand their experiences, and build connections with colleagues who have worn the uniform. Participants will also learn about the role of Veterans Liaisons within state agencies and how these connections can help veterans find support, resources, and a sense of community in the workplace.

Beginning with the question, “Have you served by air, land, or sea?” this webinar invites us to get to know the people behind their service and recognize the many ways they continue to serve New York. Whether you are a veteran, work alongside veterans, or want to learn more, join us for a conversation about recognition, connection, and continued public service.

Reverend Dr. Viviana M. DeCohen, USMC
M.S., DHL (h.c.).

Commissioner, **New York State Department of Veterans’ Services**

Click HERE for Reverend Dr. Viviana M. DeCohen’s bio

GRACE INITIATIVE

Partnering With Faith Communities to Save Lives

Guided Recovery Action through Congregational Engagement

NEW YORK STATE GRACE

GRACE is a New York State initiative that works with houses of worship to prevent overdose, reduce stigma around substance use, and connect people to care. It is led by the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) in partnership with the Department of State.

Why Faith Communities

When people are struggling, they often turn first to someone they trust. For many New Yorkers, that is a pastor, imam, rabbi, priest, or fellow member of their congregation. GRACE builds on that trust. Faith leaders bring relationships and reach. The State brings expertise, resources, and connection to treatment and recovery services.

What GRACE Does

1. **Puts lifesaving tools in communities.** Free naloxone (Narcan) kits, Deterra bags for safe medicine disposal, and medication lock bags, shared through congregations.
2. **Shows up where people gather.** OASAS staff join congregational and community events with resource tables and information.
3. **Connects people to help.** GRACE links communities to the NYS HOPEline, FindAddictionTreatment.ny.gov, and local OASAS providers.
4. **Listens first.** A statewide Faith Leader Partnership Survey and focus groups shape what GRACE offers, so support matches what faith leaders say they need.

How the Partnership Works

- ✓ **Faith communities** bring trusted relationships and a place where neighbors already gather.
- ✓ **OASAS** brings expertise, free supplies, staff support, and connection to the State's treatment and recovery network.
- ✓ **The Department of State** connects GRACE with faith and nonprofit networks across New York.

Everyone deserves to know where to turn for help.

AT A GLANCE

Led by
New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS)

Partner
New York State Department of State, Office of Faith and Nonprofit Development Services

Serves
Houses of worship and faith based organizations of all traditions, statewide

GET HELP NOW

NYS HOPEline
Call 1-877-8-HOPENY (467369) or text HOPENY (467369). Free, confidential, 24/7.

FindAddictionTreatment.ny.gov
Search for treatment near you.

FOR FAITH LEADERS

Want to partner with GRACE, request supplies, or host an event? We would love to hear from you.

CONTACT

GRACE@oasas.ny.gov
oasas.ny.gov

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NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION TAKE BACK DAY

GUIDED RECOVERY ACTION THROUGH CONGREGATIONAL ENGAGEMENT
NEW YORK STATE GRACE

Saturday October 24, 2026
10am-2pm

Turn in unwanted and expired prescription and over the counter medications for safe and secure disposal. Learn about addiction services and supports.

Bethel Gospel Assembly
2-26E 120th Street
New York, NY 10035

Salem Missionary Baptist Church
305 E 21st Street
Brooklyn, NY 11226

First Central Baptist Church
117 Wright Street
Staten Island, NY 10304

Latin African-American Clergy Association
1112 Garrison Avenue
Bronx, NY 10474

Dawah USA
150-15 Hillside Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11432

Buffalo Hindu Parishad Temple
104 Aurora Avenue
West Seneca, NY 14224

Greater Harvest Church
121 Driving Park Avenue
Rochester, NY 14613

Tucker Missionary Baptist Church
515 Oakwood Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13205

Beulah Baptist Church
92 Catharine Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

The Sikh Association of Capital District
301 Washington Avenue
Rensselaer, NY 12144

For more information, visit OASAS.ny.gov.

GRACE@oasas.ny.gov

oasas.ny.gov | 1-877-8-HOPENY (467369)

Highlighting Nonprofits In All Regions of New York State

Region: Long Island

Domestic Harmony Foundation is dedicated to uplifting Long Island's South Asian, Middle Eastern, and Muslim communities since 2009, offering free and confidential multilingual services to domestic violence survivors — including a helpline, counseling referrals, housing, legal support, and connections to basic necessities. DHF builds diverse & interfaith partnerships across communities aiming to strengthen healthy relationship models through education, advocacy, prevention and outreach.

DHF Helpline: 516-385-8292 | Email: info@dhfny.org

Region: Mid-Hudson

Fearless! Hudson Valley provides confidential services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and other crime victimization. Services include a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, therapeutic counseling, prevention education, and more. Fearless! partners with child welfare agencies, police departments, and community organizations to coordinate responses and connect survivors with support.

Email: admin@fearlesshv.org | 24-Hour Hotline: 845-562-5340

Region: Southern Tier

A New Hope Center is the comprehensive crime victims service provider for Tioga County, NY, serving around 1200 people a year. They provide free and confidential services to anyone impacted by domestic or sexual violence, child abuse, or any other crime. Services include counseling, advocacy, shelter, crisis and safety support.

24-hour hotline and text line: 607-687-6866

Region: Western New York

Caz Recovery helps people with substance use disorders pursue recovery, build healthier lives, and reach their full potential. They offer residential treatment certified by NYS OASAS and supported housing. In 2025, 89% of Caz Recovery's residents remained free of substances during their stay and 92% met some or all their goals at discharge.

Phone: 716-852-4331 | Email: admin.website@cazenoviarecovery.org

Highlighting Nonprofits In All Regions of New York State

Community Services FOR EVERY1

Region: Central New York

The Domestic Violence Programs at Community Services for Every1 provides survivors with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Erie County with safety planning, advocacy with law enforcement and the criminal justice system to protect survivor rights and intensive case management. The mission is to ensure their voice is heard and to help survivors safely and permanently leave abusive relationships.

Email: info@csevery1.com | Phone: 716-883-8002

WELLSPRING
Ending relationship and sexual abuse in our community

Region: Capital Region

Wellspring provides free, confidential support for individuals impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse and teen dating violence. Through our 24/7 hotline, safety planning, shelter, counseling, advocacy, education and community partnerships, we help individuals find safety while equipping our community to better recognize, understand and respond to abuse.

24/7 hotline: 518-584-8188

NORTH COUNTRY IMMIGRANT ALLIES (NCIA)
www.ncimmigrantallies.org

Region: North Country

North Country Immigrant Allies (NCIA) is a volunteer-led organization building safe, welcoming communities for immigrants and their families across the North Country. Through legal navigation, community support and education, English language learning, worker advocacy, and cross-sector partnerships, NCIA connects immigrant neighbors with critical resources while fostering belonging, dignity, and opportunity for Hispanic, Latino, and immigrant communities.

Phone: 315-406-7260 | Email: ncimmigrantallies@proton.me

Join Positive Change
Johnson Park Center

Region: Mohawk Valley

Johnson Park Center (JPC) is a Utica-based nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the community and supporting individuals and families in need. JPC provides essential services addressing food insecurity, homelessness, housing stability, workforce readiness, and other community needs. Through direct assistance and supportive programs, the organization works to promote stability, self-sufficiency, and improved quality of life.

Phone: 315-734-9608 | Email: info@johnsonparkcenter.org

Highlighting Nonprofits In All Regions of New York State

CONNECT
Safe Families • Peaceful Communities

Region: New York City

Faith communities and their leaders play a vital role in preventing family violence. Envisioning a city where safe families flourish, CONNECT Faith collaborates with New York City's diverse faith communities to strengthen their response to gender and family violence. Together, we help transform your community into a sanctuary of safety, justice, and healing for all.

Quentin Walcotte, Executive Director
Email: qwalcott@connectnyc.org | Phone: 646-604-2374

willow
Domestic Violence Center

Region: Finger Lakes

Willow Domestic Violence Center prevents domestic violence and champions survivor safety, justice, healing, and hope. As Monroe County's comprehensive provider, Willow offers free, confidential support including a 24/7 hotline, emergency shelter, safety planning, counseling, court advocacy, prevention education, and training—helping survivors and communities move toward safety and healthy relationships.

Email: info@willowcenterny.org | Phone: 585-222-SAFE (7233)

GRANT INFORMATION

All of our grant information and grant application assistance information can be accessed by visiting our website.

Please click HERE for more OR visit https://dos.ny.gov/ofnds

Book a 1:1 with our Grant Program Manager Xamayla Rose to enroll in SFS:

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

If you or someone you know is impacted by federal changes to Temporary Protected Status (TPS), you should only seek legal advice and updates from trusted sources.

The Office for New Americans Hotline 1-800-566-7636 can help connect you to a free immigration legal consultation with a qualified provider. Also, visit https://dos.ny.gov/know-your-rights for more information and resources.

Recent Highlights

Connect with us!

Important Interfaith Dates in October

- October 2–3: **Jewish**: Shemini Atzeret
- October 3–4: **Jewish**: Simchat Torah
- October 11–20: **Hindu**: Navaratri
- October 11: **Hindu**: Milad Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin
- October 20: **Sikh**: Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth
- October 22: **Bahá'í**: Birth of the Báb

Does your organization have public events coming up?

Fill out our form to have your event included in our next newsletter.

Need to be added to our database of Faith Leaders?

Please fill out this form.