



Broome County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, Inc.  
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**## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ##**

### **Broome County COAD Welcomed More than 30 Organizations at Membership Reception**

June 12, 2014 (Vestal, NY)... On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Broome County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (Broome County COAD) held its first membership reception. Held at Terra Cotta catering to thank members and the Community Foundation for South Central New York for continued support, raise awareness about the organization, and attract new members, the reception was a success. Among the 40 reception attendees were integral individuals of the community as well as representatives of many



vital local organizations whose services range from health, to family and children, to faith-based services. A total of 34 organizations from across Broome County and the State were represented at this event. Photos of the event are available on the organization's website, [www.bccoad.org](http://www.bccoad.org), or Facebook, at [www.facebook.com/broomecountycoad](http://www.facebook.com/broomecountycoad).

In addition to receiving important attendees, Broome County COAD hosted three speakers during the event. These speakers included Brett Chellis, Director/Fire Coordinator of Broome County's Office of Emergency

Services, Ismael Berrios, Vice Chair of New York Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, and Reverend Dr. Joseph Sellepack, Broome County COAD Board President and Executive Director of Broome County Council of Churches. Each speaker provided a unique insight to their experience with disaster relief and stressed the importance of supporting Broome County COAD.

Overall, not only was the membership reception a great opportunity for Broome County COAD to show appreciation for its members and supporters, it was a chance for potential new members to get involved while also networking with the numerous other attendees. A raffle was held to give away gift cards generously donated from local restaurants, Cyber Café West and Zona & Co. Grille. It is Broome County COAD's hope that more events like this are able to take place in the future in order to further the organization's mission of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

### **About Broome County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, Inc.**

Broome County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated helping people recover after a community disaster. BCCOAD exists to promote a collaborative structure to coordinate the work of community agencies and associated organizations in an ongoing effort to prepare for, and respond to, disaster related needs in Broome County, New York. This includes fostering an efficient streamlined service delivery to those effected by disaster, while eliminating unnecessary duplication of effort, through cooperation in the four phases of disaster: mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery. For more information on BCCOAD or to apply for membership, please visit [www.bccoad.org](http://www.bccoad.org).