



NEWS RELEASE



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Cape Cod and Islands Red Cross to Receive \$71,333 Wal-Mart Foundation Grant to Support Local and Regional Disaster Relief Efforts

April 2nd, 2009, Hyannis, MA - The Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross announces that it received a \$71,333 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation to support its local and regional disaster relief efforts.

The Wal-Mart Foundation partnered with the American Red Cross to create a \$5 million Disaster Readiness and Capacity Building Grant Program. This grant will benefit communities across the country that reside near Red Cross chapters that often become isolated during times of disaster and whose chartered jurisdictions serve less than one million people – like the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter.

The Chapter is one of 128 Red Cross chapters awarded funds as part of the Wal-Mart Foundation's initiative to support disaster response and capacity building projects nationwide.

"We are elated about the Wal-Mart Foundation grant. It will be used towards building the physical and human resources necessary to support the Barnstable County Regional Sheltering Plan", said Executive Director Glen Beasley of the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross.

"The funds will enable the pre-positioning of Red Cross supplies for 750 people, establish major health services, disaster assessment and shelter management kits and provide critical communications network and equipment links that will all be pre-positioned within the six regional locations.

"The grant further supports the resources to train and equip an additional 300 volunteers that will be necessary to operate the shelter locations 24 hours a day for periods that could reach five days or longer if necessary", Beasley says.

"This grant underscores Wal-Mart's long standing support of the American Red Cross and their commitment to support local disaster relief efforts," says Market Manager Kevin Kilker of the local Wal-Mart stores.

The Wal-Mart Foundation grant selections were based on a Chapter's disaster risk assessment and a defined measurable implementation plan. The chapter needed to demonstrate the critical support of community leadership within an integrated disaster response team effort to ensure that the regional shelter plan will be put into action and achieve the grant goals.

About the Regional Shelter Plan

The Regional Shelter Plan is a multi-agency, county wide community effort to integrate the resources necessary to shelter and care for our community, considering the requirements of those with special needs and pets with-in a coordinated, pre-planned process with pre-positioned resources directly supported by trained and equipped professionals and response organization volunteers.

The Regional Shelters create a more comprehensive shelter plan for Cape Cod. Prioritized within the existing shelter plans to include the Massachusetts Military Reserve and local emergency shelters and pre-positioned disaster response trailers.

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The Regional Shelters will efficiently and effectively move critical skills and resources closer to the community, in centralized locations, optimizing the professional and volunteer resources available necessary to provide a safe haven for those in need if a major disaster event should occur.

Six strategically located schools, distributed evenly across Cape Cod, will each be designed to initially shelter up to 500 clients for 24 hours and beyond. The ultimate goal, which will require additional community assistance, will be able for each shelter up to be able to shelter up to one thousand people.

About the Wal-Mart Foundation

“At Wal-Mart, helping communities is what we do every day. And when a crisis strikes, that charge becomes an even greater priority,” said Margaret Mckenna, president of the Wal-Mart Foundation.

“Our long-standing support of the American Red Cross is evidence of our commitment to supporting local disaster relief efforts. We are hopeful that the \$5 million we have given to local Red Cross chapters across the country will result in the swift, effective response to disasters, and the development of resources before disaster strikes.”

The Wal-Mart Foundation stands ready to help and to work with local leaders, community organizations and elected officials in the instance of a disaster. With a long-standing commitment to supporting local disaster relief efforts, the Wal-Mart Foundation works with the American Red Cross and other organizations in an effort to help its neighbors and communities during times of need.

About Philanthropy at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) and the Wal-Mart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Wal-Mart Foundation supports initiatives focused on creating opportunities in education, workforce development, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. In 2007, Walmart, Sam’s Club and the Wal-Mart Foundation gave \$296 million to communities across the United States. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org

About the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross

The Cape Cod and Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) has provided emergency response service and health and safety training to the residents of Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard for over 90 years and is a critical part of the emergency response network in these areas. Its mission is to provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. Some 600 volunteers respond, teach, and care for our community when the need is greatest 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

In the Cape and Islands area, the American Red Cross is the primary lead agency for Mass-Care Emergency Relief, Disaster Relief Services, Armed Forces Emergency Services, and Health and Safety Training Services. The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter does not receive government funding for its disaster relief efforts. For more information about volunteering, disaster relief efforts or training, visit the Chapter’s web site: capecodandislandsredcross.org or call toll-free (508) 775-1540. You can also write to: American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis MA 02601.

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