



FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

**Note, not for publication:** Bob Hartman is available for interviews at (774) 836-2736

## **Cape Cod and Islands Red Cross Sends Volunteer Couple to Alabama to Support Tornado Relief Efforts**

HYANNIS, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 --- The Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross has deployed two experienced local volunteers to support with the Red Cross Disaster Relief efforts after the tornadoes in Alabama. Volunteer couple Bob and Betty Hartman of Plymouth are scheduled to arrive in Hoover, Alabama on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

In response to the recent tornadoes, the Red Cross has opened several shelters and began serving meals and snacks. Volunteers will continue to provide those services in addition to helping with some basic medical needs, including replacing prescription medications.

Since this is the second time in less than a year that Alabama has been struck by tornadoes, the Red Cross is also focusing extra efforts on providing mental health services for these communities. Bob and Betty Hartman are trained psychologists and are part of this special group of volunteers. They have been deployed numerous times, including to Springfield, Massachusetts and Mississippi after last year's tornadoes

The Red Cross is focusing on providing safe shelter, meals, emotional support and relief supplies. These are the services that are most needed because they are the type of help other organizations don't generally provide on a large scale.

As the cleanup begins, the Red Cross is mounting a large scale distribution of items in affected neighborhoods. These items include backpacks containing blankets, flashlights, toiletries and other necessary items such as clean up supplies, tarps and other things that would be useful to residents as they return home.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. A financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those affected by a disaster. *On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve those affected by other disasters.* Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross Chapter at 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601. Tel. (508) 775-1540 ext. 21. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting [cciredcross.org](http://cciredcross.org)

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