



Eastern Massachusetts Region
Cape Cod and Islands Chapter
286 South Street
Hyannis, MA 02610
Tel (508) 775-1540
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www.cciredcross.org

Media Alert

For more information, contact Erica Waasdorp at heroes@cciredcross.org or (508) 775-1540 ext. 21

Grace Weeks of Dennis Named 2010 Youth Mentor/Role Model Hero



Hyannis, Mass, March 4, 2011 –The American Red Cross Cape Cod and Islands Chapter is pleased to announce that Grace V. Weeks has been named a Youth Mentor/Role Model Hero and will be honored at the 9th Annual Heroes Breakfast at the Resort & Conference Center in Hyannis on March 31, 2011 from 7:00-9:00 am. Tickets are available on-line at www.cciredcross.org, by calling (508) 775-1540 ext. 21 or at American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601.

Nominated by Sandy Rubenstein of Yarmouth Port, Grace Weeks is a hero because she speaks about something considered unspeakable -- childhood sexual abuse. Grace brings a voice and awareness – and her personal tale of survival – to its victims and our community.

Three years ago, Grace survived a horrific abduction from her home, fighting for her life and the safety of her family while a stranger raped her. Since then, she has emerged as a strong and confident woman who has committed herself to help others by building awareness of this horrific crime and its aftermath.

She established a fundraiser to benefit Children's Cove of Cape Cod, a place instrumental in Grace's miraculous rehabilitation from her own assault. It is the only agency on the Cape providing services for children who are the victims of sexual abuse.

In November, Grace created "Walk to Awaken, Speak Up to Stop Sexual Assault," a 5K walk in Dennis. She rallied more than 100 friends, neighbors and members of her church community to support her goal of \$1,000 – she raised more than \$6,000. Grace has continued to speak and build awareness about her cause, including speaking to college criminal justice students about her experience.

It's hard to imagine that anyone who survived what Grace did could regain normalcy in their lives. But Grace arose with a sense of purpose, maturity and incredible strength. She inspires others with the strength to move on, to make a difference and to grow. Her heroism is inspirational.

For speaking out and reaching out to other victims with a mission of hope and awareness, the chapter is proud to honor Grace Weeks, a true Red Cross Hero.

To find out more about the 9th Annual Red Cross Heroes Breakfast, please contact the American Red Cross, Cape Cod Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601, call (508) 775-1540 or visit www.cciredcross.org

The Red Cross is not a government agency and does not receive federal or state funding. Local Chapters do receive some human resource support from the American Red Cross Headquarters, however, each Chapter is responsible for raising adequate funds to support all of its activities, including recruiting and training volunteers, and teaching life saving skills within its geographical coverage area. It relies on donations of time, money, and blood from the American public to successfully do its work.



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