



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

286 South Street
Hyannis, Massachusetts 02601
Phone: (508) 775-1540
Or (866) 762-1928

Media Alert

Contact: Glen Beasley
ccexdir@cape.com
(508) 775-1540 x 16

American Red Cross launches Preparedness Initiative on Nantucket

Hyannis, MA, April 28th, 2010 – The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter has launched the final stage of its Nantucket Preparedness Initiative, aimed at benefiting every resident on the Island.



Burt Balkind and Georgia Snell with the ERV

Last week, a Red Cross volunteer delivered the Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV), supported by a Nantucket Foundation and the Chapter is in the process of supplying 1,000 blankets donated by a business off-Island.

With a special Cape and Islands United Way community challenge, the American Red Cross now has \$43,000 left to raise to support the Nantucket Preparedness Initiative.

The plan consists of pre-positioning the equipment and recruit, train and equip the volunteer team necessary to be prepared and respond to an emergency when the need arises on Nantucket. All funds raised towards this plan will stay on the Island.

More particularly, this means:

- Pre-position the materials and equipment to support shelter and mass care for 1,000.
- Incorporate current communications and data equipment to support a major shelter operation.
- Modernize the emergency support vehicle to support response requirements
- Expand volunteer recruitment and training initiatives enabling each member of the Nantucket community to be part of the preparedness solution with specific focus on the youth and diverse members of Nantucket.
- Demonstrate that the Red Cross is committed to partner with other organizations and residents within the Nantucket community through Memoranda of Understanding with other response agencies and Emergency Management on the Island
- Provide improved access to training systems through targeted outreach programs increasing the number of residents trained in critical life saving skills training.
- Demonstrate donor support will be directed to continuously improve the quality of Red Cross service delivery, community preparedness, education and disaster response on Nantucket.

The Cape Cod and Islands Chapter is continuing to build its disaster volunteer team on the Island. The chapter has finalized the training of 12 new disaster volunteers to join the existing 10 trained volunteers in place on the island led by Red Cross Zone Leader Reverend Georgia Snell.

Donor funds from all over Cape Cod and the Islands enabled the initial pre-positioning of the equipment to shelter 100 people, which is maintained in a Red Cross response trailer positioned on the Fire station. All Disaster Relief Support is provided free of charge. The Chapter is actively pursuing donor and foundation funds to support the Preparedness Initiative for and by Nantucket.

To donate or to inquire about the Nantucket Preparedness Initiative or about Red Cross training programs, both online and in person, please contact the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601 or via www.cciredcross.org or toll-free at (508) 775-1540.

NOTE: All disaster relief support provided by the American Red Cross is free of charge. The Chapter does not receive government funding. It is totally dependent upon local support from foundations, individuals and businesses. A gift of any size to the American Red Cross supports the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross in your community, across the country and around the world.