



American Red Cross
Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

Eastern Massachusetts Region

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

286 South Street

Hyannis, MA 02610

Tel (508) 775-1540

Fax (508) 771-2209

www.cciredcross.org

MEDIA ALERT

Red Cross Receives \$1,000 from Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank Charitable Fund

Hyannis, MA, January 29, 2012 - The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter is pleased to announce that it has received a generous grant of \$1,000 from The Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank Charitable Fund through the Permanent Endowment Fund for Martha's Vineyard.

The grant is to be used for general support of the American Red Cross programs on Martha's Vineyard, with a goal of having 30 Disaster Action Team volunteers in place, ready to serve 3,000 potential victims in Island shelters. This program will support residents, and visitors to the island, should they require shelter and food after a disaster, and expand new and existing volunteer recruitment and training initiatives. The project will benefit the community in preparation for a disaster and in offering excellent volunteer opportunities with ongoing training

Mr. Wells, president of Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank said, *"We are proud to support the efforts of the many volunteers of the American Red Cross in their important preparedness and training."*

Martha's Vineyard is one of the five zones, supported by disaster volunteers on the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Martha's Vineyard Zone Leader Jim Thomas of Oak Bluffs said: *"We are very pleased to have received this generous grant from The Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank Charitable Fund through the Permanent Endowment Fund for Martha's Vineyard. The training made possible through this grant will bring us one step closer to our goals for the Martha's Vineyard Be Ready Be Prepared Initiative to ensure that we have trained volunteers and all relevant materials to be ready for disaster to help support local residents and visitors on the Island."*

The **American Red Cross** is the nation's foremost emergency response organization, offering neutral humanitarian care to the victims of war and devastating natural disasters as well as local disasters such as fires, Hazardous Materials accidents and more, providing victims of these disasters with shelter, food and emotional support. Today, in addition to domestic disaster relief, the American Red Cross offers compassionate services in five other areas: **community services** for affected victims after a disaster; **support and comfort for military members and their families** including **emergency messaging**; the **collection, processing and distribution of lifesaving blood and blood products**; **educational programs** that promote health and safety; and **international relief and development** programs.

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.

To find out more about volunteering for the Red Cross on Martha's Vineyard, for disaster preparedness presentations on Cape Cod and the Islands, for class schedules, for disaster preparedness information in English, Spanish or Portuguese, or to donate, please contact the American Red Cross, Cape Cod Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601, call (508) 775-1540 ext. 21 or visit www.cciredcross.org

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