



## Media Alert

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### For Immediate Release

## Red Cross offers Free Volunteer Training on May 20th and 21st in Oak Bluffs

May 4, 2011, Hyannis, MA- The Cape Cod and Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross is pleased to announce that it will offer an introductory class for prospective volunteers on Friday, May 20th from 6 to 9 p.m. This class is open to anyone interested in learning more about volunteering with the Red Cross.

On Saturday May 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Chapter will offer an all day training for those who are interested in joining the Disaster Mental Health team.

Both classes will be held at the Oak Bluffs Council on Aging located at 21 Wamsutta Avenue. Refreshments will be provided.

These classes are free of charge, but registration is required. Call 774-836-7346 or email: [train@cciredcross.org](mailto:train@cciredcross.org)

The Friday evening class, *Disaster Services Overview*, introduces the prospective volunteer to the Red Cross and its mission in responding to disasters, and is the required basic orientation for all new volunteers. There are numerous disaster activities in which one can become involved; these can be explored further after completing the steps to becoming an emergency services volunteer. This class is available to the general public and there are no pre-requisites.

The Saturday class, *Foundations of Disaster Mental Health*, is only available to those with an active mental health license, or a license in school psychology or school counseling. This course prepares licensed mental health professionals to provide for and respond to the psychological needs of people across the continuum of disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Those attending the Saturday session must also attend the Friday evening class, unless they have previously taken the overview course elsewhere.

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.

For more information about volunteering, training, Red Cross activities on Martha's Vineyard, or making a donation to the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross, go to the website, [cciredcross.org](http://cciredcross.org), click on Martha's Vineyard, call (508) 775-1540 or write to American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601