



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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Media Alert

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Cape and Islands United Way Challenges Nantucket Community to Support Red Cross Preparedness Initiative

Hyannis, MA, March 3rd, 2010 – The Cape and Islands United Way is supporting the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter with a \$10,000 challenge grant to support its Nantucket Preparedness Initiative, aimed at benefiting every resident on the Island.

Ron Reed, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Cape and Islands United Way said, *“the Board of Directors and our entire organization are honored to announce this grant to the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross in support of disaster response volunteer training on Nantucket. As part of the circle of care surrounding our community, we are grateful to complete the circle from donors, volunteers and professionals to service the residents of Nantucket.”*

Thanks to the Cape and Islands United Way Challenge, the amount left to raise from the community is \$61,000 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.

- 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 Martha's Vineyard community to be part of the preparedness solution with specific focus on the youth and diverse members of Martha's Vineyard.
- 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 is finalizing 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 Nantucket. 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.

The ultimate success of the initiative will be measured through the support of the Nantucket donors, such as the ***Cape and Islands United Way challenge***, enabling Red Cross volunteers to be trained and equipped with pre-positioned materials ready to operate disaster shelters and to be prepared for local emergencies if the need arises.

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.cciiredcross.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 Your gift supports the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross in your community, across the country and around the world.