

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

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The flooding got really bad in some areas...



*Jim McPherson, Cheril Young,
Jenn Carlson-Benoit, Jonathan O'Neil*



All the boxes lined up in a row

In collaboration with community partners, volunteers unloaded bulk distribution items (cleaning supplies such as bleach, salvage bags, etc.) and prepared them for further distribution.

Local Red Cross Volunteers Support Flood Relief Efforts in Massachusetts

Hyannis, MA, April 3rd, 2010 - A number of Cape Cod and Islands, American Red Cross Volunteers have been supporting the flood relief efforts in Massachusetts and here on Cape Cod and the Islands, since the start of the heavy rains on March 12th.

Jenn Carlson-Benoit of South Yarmouth, Cape Cod and Islands Emergency Services Director was Director of the overall Operations, stationed in Haverhill. Jim McPherson of Chatham handled Customer Service and Cheril Young of Mashpee handled client case work. Frank O'Laughlin of Marstons Mills and Dan Howard of Bourne organized Ham Radio Communications and Ted Smith of Dennisport and Linda Kelly of Hyannis supported the two shelters that were opened in the area.

Rebecca Alden of West Dennis handled Staff Health Services (ensuring that all volunteers are healthy and able to deploy) and Bob and Betty Hartman of Plymouth handled the planning and deployment availability of all volunteers. Catharie Nass of Wellfleet supported Chapter activities, Jonathan O'Neil of Hyannis handled Bulk distribution of food and clean up kits and Jeff Stranger of Centerville was active in Partner Services and liaised with Massachusetts Emergency Management (MEMA).

All in all, these local Red Cross volunteers were part of some 250 people involved with supporting Massachusetts residents who had flooding damages, ranging from handing out clean-up and comfort kits to sheltering people who could not stay in their homes for a few days to handing out almost 5,000 meals and snacks to those in need of a meal.

There is absolutely no charge for any Red Cross disaster assistance. All disaster assistance is free, a gift from the American people. The Red Cross has launched a special fundraising appeal to support residents in need and ensure that volunteers will be on hand for damage assessment and other needs.

You can help victims from disaster such as the recent floods, by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those affected by a disaster. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve those affected by other disasters. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to the American Red Cross chapter at 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601. Tel. (508) 775-1540. Internet users can make a secure online contribution at cciredcross.org