

Local Red Cross Staff Member Gets Trained at National Red Cross Disaster Operations Center in Washington

May 30th, 2010, Hyannis, MA – Jenn Carlson-Benoit from South Yarmouth is spending two weeks at the Disaster Operations Center (DOC) at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington DC.



The staff and volunteers at the Disaster Operations Center oversee all disaster operations across the country. They have been very busy in the past months, with winter storms, floods in the Northeast, floods and tornadoes in the south and middle of the country. Staff is gearing up further with Hurricane Season officially starting on June 1st, 2010.

Jenn Carlson is the Director of Emergency Services with the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross. As such she manages approximately 300 disaster volunteers, across five areas (zones), Upper Cape, Mid Cape, Lower Cape, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

Jenn will be meeting with, gathering information from, and learning directly from NHQ group/activity leads as well as gaining experience from working in the DOC which oversees operations across the country. In turn, National Headquarters staff will learn from her about individual chapter programs and service delivery challenges unique to our chapter/region. The American Red Cross is continuously training its staff and volunteers to ensure that they are ready to deal with whichever disaster comes their way.

Jenn worked as the Operations Director in Haverhill during the recent flood relief efforts. A number of local volunteers supported these, and responders deployed to help from more than 10 states across the country, from as far away as California.

The American Red Cross is charged by Congress to respond to disasters, free of charge to those affected and is also instrumental in educating the public in life saving skills and disaster preparedness. However, it does not receive government funding and is totally dependent upon the voluntary donations of time and money from the American public .

For more information about disaster preparedness and relief efforts, training, volunteering, or to make a donation, please contact the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter at 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601. Internet users can make a secure online contribution at cciredcross.org or call (508) 775-1540.