



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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Media Alert

American Red Cross Hosts Volunteers from All Over New England for Disaster Training



Larry Rosenberg of Massachusetts Bay Chapter (left) and Michael Robbins of Sandwich (Cape Cod and Islands Chapter) with the Emergency Response Vehicle feeding the volunteers

Hyannis, Mass, April 28th, 2010 - The Cape Cod and Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross announces that it hosted more than 110 volunteers from all over New England for several Disaster Training classes in the Southern New England Disaster Institute (SNEDI).

The primary purpose of the Southern New England Disaster Institute is to develop the leadership and professional skills of Red Cross Staff, both Volunteer and Paid. At the Institute, there are opportunities to learn about important Red Cross programs and initiatives that impact each Chapter's planning and performance. It is designed to bring together Red Cross participants from a diverse number of Disaster Services activities and locations so they may have the opportunity to both network with and learn from each other.

One of the classes consisted of Mass Feeding, utilizing minimal resources and kitchens without too much power (or none) and get trained on supplying food to people from an Emergency Response Vehicle. . The Mass Feeding class was able to feed all volunteers and was able to donate extra meals to the NOAH Shelter in Hyannis afterwards.

Other Courses offered during SNEDI relate directly to the "five things" Red Cross volunteers need to focus on for response within Disaster Services, like Operations Management, Public Affairs, Disaster Assessment, and all activities in Mass Care and Mass Feeding.

Training and professional development are critical to the Red Cross collective ability to respond at the Chapters to meet the Disaster Services Mission of the American Red Cross across the country, because *every* disaster is local. If disasters occur, trained volunteers are essential to lead the spontaneous volunteers that often 'bubble up' in disaster situations.

As so many of the volunteers came from Off-Cape, local volunteers prepared 'Welcome to Cape Cod' bags and organized raffles thanks to the in-kind support of the following local businesses and organizations:

St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, Coca Cola Bottling Company, Pepsi Bottling Group, Ballymeade Country Club, Marietta Corporation, Whink Products Company, Doris & Bruno Ferretti, CVS, Hanlon Shoes, Cape Cod Potato Chips, Partylite Candle, Old Navy, Trader Joes, Cape Cod Beer, Vineyard Playhouse, Catania Hospitality Group, Jack's Pizza, The Little Sandwich Shop, Colorful Creations, Mike's Pizza, Old Country Buffet, Papa Gino's, Box Lunch, La Petite France Cafe, Soho Arts, Cape Cod Jeweler, The Black Whale, Wings, Mary Ellen Steeves, Terri Tarozzi and Malee Prete.

The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter currently has some 350 trained disaster volunteers (also called Disaster Action Team members) on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. All disaster relief is provided free of charge and only made possible thanks to the volunteering of time and financial support from individuals and foundations.

The Chapter always welcomes more volunteers and offers classes on an ongoing basis. For more information about volunteering, training or supporting the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, see the web site: capecodandislandsredcross.org, call toll-free (508) 775-1540 or write to: 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601.

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