



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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Media Alert **MEDIA ALERT**

Tupancy-Harris Foundation to Support the Red Cross Nantucket Preparedness Initiative

Hyannis, MA, February 2, 2010 – The Tupancy-Harris Foundation is supporting the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter with a starting grant in support of the Nantucket Preparedness Initiative, aimed at benefiting every resident on the Island.

The Nantucket Preparedness Initiative is estimated to cost \$76,000 and consists of the following elements:

- Pre-position the materials and equipment to support shelter and mass care for 1,000 people.
- Provide a used, modified emergency response support vehicle to support response requirements.
- Recruit, train and equip volunteers necessary to respond to an emergency when the need arises.
- Provide an integrated communications kit to enable Red Cross response teams and clients to communicate to command through voice, Internet, and alternate communications sources.
- Provide improved access to training systems through outreach programs increasing the number of residents trained in critical life saving skills training.
- Partner with the Nantucket Emergency Managers, other response organizations and agencies within the Nantucket community to develop and implement a large- scale shelter operations plan.
- Enable each member of the Nantucket community to be part of the preparedness solution through the delivery of community preparedness education 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 ***Tupancy-Harris Foundation***, 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.cciredcross.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 Red Cross will save the day when the next disaster strikes. Your gift supports the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross in your community, across the country and around the world.