



Cape Cod and Islands Chapter  
286 South Street  
Hyannis, MA 02601  
(508)775-1540, 24 hours  
[www.cciredcross.org](http://www.cciredcross.org)

For immediate release

Glen Beasley, 508 776 9663

## **A Red Cross story based upon the recent Regional shelters operated by the Red Cross: Red Cross Volunteers and Emergency Partners Operate Four Shelters during December Blizzard**

Hyannis, MA January 5, 2010– While most people were comfortable in their own beds riding out the storm on Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>, several Red Cross Disaster Action Team Members along with volunteers from AmeriCorps Cape Cod and the Cape Cod Disaster Animal Relief Team (DART) responded to four regional shelters opened in advance of the storm to ensure the safety of community residents in case of power outages.

One of the volunteers shared: *“In the Harwich Shelter yesterday was a service man who had come home from overseas deployment because of a death in the family. Public safety officials picked him up early in the am and brought him to the shelter because his family in West Barnstable was unable to get him because of the storm .... When we found out his status, one of the firemen from Brewster picked the service man up from the shelter and took him to West Barnstable to connect with his family.”*

In addition, a fully supported Multi Agency Coordination Center (MACC) was set up at Otis. It is staffed with the IMT (Incident Management Team) comprised of various public safety Departments, including police and fire, representatives from the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office, Mass State Fire, and the Red Cross which was represented by Jeff Stranger for Partner Services. Dan Howard represented the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) team, and set-up Ham Radio Operations for communications statewide.

The MACC coordinated services needed that were needed throughout Barnstable County from getting snow plows to keeping Willow Street open for ambulances going to and from Cape Cod Hospital, to getting Mashpee DPW to escort AMR Ambulances into Mashpee Commons to patients dialyses.

Power outages were reported to us from various public agencies and these requests were sent to NSTAR's Jeff Luce which worked very well. Jeff Stranger from Red Cross reported shelter numbers, feeding issues, other Mass Care needs, and tracked Damage Assessment feedback from volunteers in the field.

Two Red Cross volunteers spent the night at the Chapter House in Hyannis to help coordinate all efforts as well as all of the volunteers and public safety officials who were stationed at the MACC at Otis, with the Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (BCREPC) from Saturday morning through Sunday night.

The Cape Cod and the Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross operated Barnstable County shelters as part of the Regional Sheltering Plan in Eastham, Harwich, Sandwich and South Yarmouth for one full day. Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket volunteers were on stand by to operate shelters after the storm.

Fortunately, there were only about 10 clients who needed to be sheltered as the power outages were taken care of quickly. NSTAR and public safety officials were all pre-positioned but nevertheless, these volunteers spent time away from their families to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Cape Cod and Islands residents.

A total of 49 local Disaster Action Team (DAT) Members responded to this storm. DAT Members served a total of 195 meals, 70 snacks, and 184 bottles of water. Some residents did some amazing things... When Partner Services Administrator Jeff Stranger was looking to obtain some food locally, he was able to connect with the owner of Pizza's by Evan in Sandwich. He came in to the store that was closed because of the storm, prepared hot sandwiches and delivered them to the shelter in his 4 wheel drive.

A special thank you goes to all public safety officials, NSTAR, ARES, the Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (BCREPC), Red Cross volunteers, AmeriCorps volunteers, Cape Cod Disaster Animal Relief Team volunteers and school custodians who worked tirelessly over the Blizzard of December 20<sup>th</sup> to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the Cape Cod and Islands residents.

*All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of disasters locally by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Local Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of disaster. Contributions to the Cape Cod and Islands Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter at 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601. Tel. (508) 775-1540. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting [www.cciredcross.org](http://www.cciredcross.org)*

