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For Immediate Release

Nantucket Residents and Businesses Raised \$8,143 to support Red Cross Haiti Relief Efforts

Hyannis, MA, February 27th, 2010- A group of local businesses and residents pulled together a special Haiti Support Event, called The Nantucket Collaborative Fundraiser for Haiti. The event, held at The Muse on January 23, 2010, was supported by in-kind donations by various local businesses, bands and musicians, with food and drinks donated as well. There were also gift certificates and other items for the auction donated by upwards of 40 local businesses.

Natalie Ciminero, President of Liaison Event Planning and Consulting, and Arlene O'Reilly, President of Mind's Eye Productions, were the main organizers and promoters of the event.

"We would like to thank all of the businesses and residents who have made this event possible. We couldn't have done this in such short notice without the passion of all of the wonderful volunteers. It has been an honor and a pleasure working with my community to help so many in need. It is crucial that we do not forget them as the severity of the situation is going to warrant much help and attention now and in the future. We were extremely pleased to work with the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross to ensure that everybody was properly thanked and that the funds are being passed on to International Response Fund in support of Haiti relief efforts," Natalie said.

She continues: *"Just after the earthquake hit January 12th, I was overwhelmed with emotion and the desire to help. How couldn't we be deeply and profoundly moved by day after day of heartbreaking news? I just knew that I needed to act and felt assured that my community would support this event. It hit me like a ton of bricks and this event became my main priority and driving force to help make a difference in the world.*

"The power of our humanity and compassion can conquer the most daunting of situations and I thought it was important to provide the time and space for all of us who felt such a range of emotions to come together, and for a brief moment, forget our own troubles and worries in the spirit of helping. I truly believe that there is nothing we cannot accomplish if we work together. This is why I do what I do."

All contributions collected at the event have already been forwarded to the American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter in Hyannis. The funds do not stay with the local chapter, but are forwarded to the Red Cross International Relief Efforts to support the Haiti Earthquake victims.

All disaster relief services are free to those who need it but the American Red Cross receives no government funding for its disaster relief activities. For more information about the Red Cross Haiti relief efforts, which are updated on a regular basis, go to www.redcross.org. If you are interested in organizing small fundraisers to support local, national or international disaster relief, please call the American Red Cross Cape Cod and Islands Chapter at (508) 775-1540, write to 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601, email info@cciredcross.org or go online to the website, www.cciredcross.org.

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