



**American
Red Cross**

Eastern Massachusetts Region
Cape Cod and Islands Chapter
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Media ALERT

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For Immediate Release

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, American Red Cross Board Recognizes Volunteers for 800 Years of Service

Hyannis, Mass., June 19th, 2011 — The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter organized a special Volunteer Recognition Event on June 17th to honor and recognize the more than 800 years of service provided by the volunteers present.

The event was hosted by the Chapter Board and held at the Red Jacket Resort and attended by some 150 volunteers, staff members and donors. Several previous board members were also present.

Volunteers who had reached at least 5 years of service received a special certificate and service pin. Different pins were given to those with 10 years, 20 years, 25 years, 30, and 40 years. One person, Ed Robertson of Dennis received the special 55 years of service to the American Red Cross Award. The above picture shows from left to right: Enzo Allegretti of Brewster, outgoing Board Chair, with 46 years of service, Dave Pollock of Brewster with 26 years, Frank O'Laughlin of Marstons Mills with 25 years and Pat Foran, incoming Board Chair with three years of service.



In addition, the volunteers gave one special recognition award, a tradition that started three years ago by the then Director of Disaster Services Jenn Carlson and subsequently adopted by the volunteers as the Jenn Carlson award. Jenn came down from Tewksbury where she now works for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to present the award to Laura Johnson of East Sandwich. (Left Laura Johnson, right Jenn Carlson-Benoit).

The **American Red Cross** is the nation's foremost emergency response organization, offering neutral humanitarian care to the victims of war and devastating natural disasters as well as local disasters such as fires, Hazardous Materials accidents and more, providing victims of these disasters with shelter, food and emotional support. Today, in addition to domestic disaster relief, the American Red Cross offers compassionate services in five other areas: **community services** for affected victims after a disaster; **support and comfort for military members and their families** including **emergency messaging**; the **collection, processing and distribution of lifesaving blood and blood products**; **educational programs** that promote health and safety; and **international relief and development** programs.

The Red Cross is not a government agency and does not receive federal or state funding. Local Chapters do receive some human resource support from the American Red Cross Headquarters, however, each Chapter is responsible for raising adequate funds to support all of its activities, including recruiting and training volunteers, and teaching life saving skills within its geographical coverage area. It relies on donations of time, money, and blood from the American public to successfully do its work.

To find out more about volunteering for the Red Cross, for class schedules, for disaster preparedness information in English, Spanish or Portuguese, or to donate, please contact the American Red Cross, Cape Cod Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601, call (508) 775-1540 ext. 21 or visit www.cciredcross.org

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