



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

286 South Street
Hyannis, Massachusetts 02601
Phone: (508) 775-1540
Or (866) 762-1928
capecodandislandsredcross.org

Contact: Jenn Carlson
supportone@cciredcross.org
(508) 775-1540 ext 15

Media Alert

American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter Launches the 250 Volunteer Drive

Hyannis, MA, April 10, 2008 - The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, is looking for at least 250 additional volunteers in Disaster Services and other areas in the next few months. Training will be provided, to culminate in a major Cape-wide Shelter simulation on May 31st, just before the start of hurricane season.

Volunteers will typically be active in their own community or in one of the zones near their own town: Upper Cape, Mid Cape, Lower Cape, Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket. Occasionally, travel to the chapter house in Hyannis may be necessary. Volunteers are needed for the following areas:

Disaster Staff Services, to support the chapter during normal business hours, and in the case of a disaster relief operation, to help manage shelters in their own community. Some volunteers are also needed to help the chapter on off-hours to support clients who have suffered a loss as a result of a house fire or other disaster, and to help rehab first responders on the scene.

Community Preparedness Education, to support the chapter by providing talks and group presentations to educate local community groups, schools and other interested organizations in emergency preparedness awareness and other training. This will require some evening or weekend activities.

Emergency Operations/Government Relations, to represent the chapter to our government and emergency management partners by attending monthly meetings, and when assigned to incident command and multi-agency coordination centers and other emergency management settings.

Data-entry, to support the fundraising efforts of the chapter. Other volunteer opportunities are available as well.

This 250 Volunteer Drive is part of the Chapter's goal to ensure that all areas on Cape Cod have enough volunteers who are adequately trained to operate shelters as local emergency officials open them. Volunteer forms are available for download on the web at www.capecodandislandsredcross.org; click volunteer. Or stop by the Chapter.

The chapter has worked hard in the past months to ensure that each pre-assigned shelter has adequate supplies to care for people for three days. In addition, the website contains Be Red Cross Ready information in English and Portuguese. Every household on Cape Cod and the Islands should know what they need at home to survive the first three days after a disaster. A shelter map is available on the web as well at www.capecodandislandsredcross.org

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from people in our local communities. Training to registered volunteers is free. For more information about volunteering, please contact the Chapter by emailing volunteer@cciredcross.org. You may also write to American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis MA 02601 or call toll-free (508) 775-1540. More info is also available on www.capecodandislandsredcross.org

XXXX