



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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Media Alert **MEDIA ALERT**

American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands receives High Performing Chapter Award

Hyannis, Mass, April 11, 2008 – The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter received the Highly Performing Chapter Award at the National Convention, held recently in Baltimore, MD. Two Red Cross volunteers, Catharie Nass from Wellfleet and Erica Waasdorp from Marstons Mills accepted the award on the chapter's behalf.

Only 90 of the 756 Red Cross chapters across the country received this special honor, which is based upon 36 performance standards, aimed at improving chapter operations while supporting the community locally with the best Red Cross service possible. To name a few: increased number of people reached with health and safety classes, increased number of preparedness presentations, increased number of volunteers supported, increased disaster relief levels and much more.

The Cape Cod and Islands Chapter has a small staff of 4 people and is supported by approx. 250 volunteers year round and some 600 in the summer. The chapter provides extensive volunteer training as well as many other CPR/AED and First Aid classes.

To ensure that the volunteers have all the tools to support disaster relief and preparedness efforts, each chapter is responsible to raise its own funds locally, because the Red Cross does not receive any government funding for its relief efforts. The Cape Cod and Islands chapter is totally dependent upon support from local community donations. The chapter responds to local emergencies like fires, floods, storms, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, thanks to you!

The Red Cross works in direct support with individuals and businesses on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. During the past few months alone the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter and Red Cross trained volunteers have:

- Responded to more than 15 fires and a plane crash;
- Provided 17 families with food, clothing, a place to stay and other assistance;
- Supported the first responders at each emergency with food, snacks and drinks;
- Prepared for four winter storms and were on-call 24 hours a day;
- Provided CPR/AED, First Aid, Choke-saver, Pet First Aid and other life saving training to our community;
- Ensured that each shelter in every town has pre-positioned shelter supplies;
- Provided emergency preparedness presentations throughout the community;
- Begun delivering CPR/AED training to high school students using a new on-line training tool;
- Proactively reached out to the Brazilian community to provide CPR and AED classes in Portuguese;

For more information about the services the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross, to volunteer or to support the chapter with a donation, please go to www.capecodandislandsredcross.org , call (508) 775-1540 or write to American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601.