



# Making a Difference in your neighborhood



American Red Cross  
of Greater Columbus

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## Home fires on the rise this winter *Red Cross relies on your gifts to help local families recover*

This past fall the Thompkins family lost nearly everything in a kitchen fire that destroyed their northeast side home. "The day of the fire the Red Cross was so helpful with things that I didn't even think about, like making sure that we were able to replace medication that was destroyed," said Lilly Thompkins.

Following the fire, the Thompkins family home was uninhabitable, so volunteers made sure this family of four had a safe place to stay. They also provided comfort kits, including toothbrushes and personal hygiene items, and

gave both daughters, ages 4 and 7, teddy bears.

Along with the physical destruction caused by fire, the emotional turmoil of losing a home can be devastating, especially to children. Red Cross volunteers made arrangements for both girls to receive disaster counseling, something their mother felt was critical for their well being. "I didn't realize the Red Cross did all of that. I'm a believer now."

Unfortunately this scene is all too familiar in greater Columbus. This past December saw a 20% increase in the number



The Thompkins family enjoys a moment together in their new home.

of families assisted after fires when compared to December 2009. January was no better with 51 Franklin County families experiencing the devastation caused by home fires. This represents a

76% increase from last January. This winter has been particularly harsh on local families. With your support the Red Cross ensures that they will not be left out in the cold.

## Checking in on Haiti

*One year after massive earthquake devastates country, American Red Cross continues to help*

At the January 12 one-year anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti, the needs remain great, but there are signs of hope and progress. The American Red Cross received \$479 million in donations for Haiti. At the one year mark, we have spent and signed contracts to spend \$245 million – more than half of the total raised. In the first year, most of the money has been spent on emergency relief and recovery, including food, water, emergency shelter, health services, livelihoods and building a new culture of

preparedness. More than \$4.5 million was spent responding to the cholera outbreak and millions have gone to Habitat for Humanity and other partners to build semi-permanent homes.

We wish the pace of progress was faster, and we want to see every Haitian living in permanent homes, having robust jobs and living in vibrant communities, but there are many challenges to overcome. The American Red Cross is committed to spending your

donor dollars in the most effective way possible, and we will be there until the last dollar donated to Haiti has been spent. Visit [www.redcross.org/haiti](http://www.redcross.org/haiti) to view our one-year report and other resources describing Haiti earthquake relief.





**American Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus

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# MISSION

## of the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.








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### Your Red Cross IMPACT

07/01/10-01/31/11

-  Medical trips for seniors..... **9,015**
-  Families assisted after fires ..... **257**
-  Financial assistance provided to disaster victims..... **\$102,249**
-  Individuals trained in CPR/First Aid ..... **10,796**
-  Emergency messages conveyed on behalf of military families ..... **262**

Our 2010-2011 Annual Report is now available.  
Check it out online at: [columbus.redcross.org](http://columbus.redcross.org)

## 15 years honoring community's finest



Help us honor Michael Morris, AEP chairman and CEO, with the 2011 American Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year award. In its 15th year, this annual award recognizes local individuals whose efforts and accomplishments have made our community a better place to live and work. Michael Morris is known for his compassion for people and commitment to our community. Join us as he is honored during a luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Columbus on May 3, 2011 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Seats are \$75 and table sponsorships are still available.**

**Call 614.253.2740 ext. 2427 or visit [columbus.redcross.org](http://columbus.redcross.org) to register.**

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