

For Immediate Release

Columbus Foundation Grant Strengthens American Red Cross Disaster Services

December 27, 2007 – The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus recently received a \$25,000 grant from the Noverre Musson, and Frederic W. and Elizabeth E. Heimberger funds of the Columbus Foundation for disaster planning, readiness and response. “We are very fortunate to have the support of the Columbus Foundation for our Disaster Services program,” said American Red Cross of Greater Columbus CEO Michael Carroll. “On average the Red Cross assists more than 500 families each year who have suffered from a disaster. This grant will allow the Red Cross to meet the emergency-related needs of those disaster victims as they begin the recovery process,” said Carroll.

While most local disasters don’t make headlines like major disasters, their impact on individuals and families is just as tragic. The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus volunteers respond immediately, day or night, to disasters when alerted by first responders. Once at the scene, Red Cross volunteers ensure that families have a safe place to stay and begin the relief process that provides assistance for food, clothing, eyeglasses, prescription drugs, household items, medical supplies, shelter and other emergency-related needs each family may have.

Responding to more than 400 disaster operations last year, American Red Cross of Greater Columbus volunteers provided 381 families with more than \$278,000 in financial assistance.

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. Sustained by over 600 volunteers, the Red Cross provides assistance to more than 500 families each year after home fires and other disasters strike. Last year the organization trained and educated more than 97,000 area residents in vital lifesaving skills like first aid, CPR and how to prepare for emergencies. The Red Cross also sent more than 800 emergency messages between members of the military and their families. The community transportation program provides rides to medical appointments for seniors and individuals with disabilities, logging more than 19,600 trips last year. All these programs and more are made possible by the donations of time and money from the greater Columbus community.

Michael Carroll is the CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus and Michael Schoedinger serves as the board chair.

###