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News Release

American Red Cross of Greater Columbus
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Nationwide Foundation Commits \$415,000 for
American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness and Relief***

May 21, 2007—Nationwide has affirmed its commitment to help American Red Cross chapters across the country prepare and respond to disasters by announcing a grant from the Nationwide Foundation of \$415,000 to the national organization and ten chapters around the country. The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus will receive \$30,000 to help fulfill its mission to assist local residents to prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

“The Red Cross has enjoyed a long tradition of support from Nationwide and its employees,” commented Michael Carroll, CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus. “They have improved the lives of many of our community’s citizens through their philanthropy and community outreach.”

Other Red Cross chapters that are benefiting from Nationwide’s gift include the chapters of Central Iowa, Grand Canyon, North Central Florida, Stark County, Triangle Area, San Antonio Area, Lancaster County, Savannah, and the Red Cross of the Susquehanna Valley.

When natural disasters hit, Nationwide associates and agents spring into action to help communities recover. Their blood donor center, located within its Columbus headquarters, collects more than 10,000 donations annually and Nationwide has given more than \$2 million to episodic and annual disaster relief.

- more -

American Red Cross – add one

The Nationwide Foundation is an independent corporation funded by contributions from Nationwide companies. Founded in 1959, the Nationwide Foundation has committed more than \$169 million since 2000 to help nonprofit organizations in communities where it associates and their families live and work. Just as Nationwide supports its customers in their moment of need, the company's involvement in its home communities is focused on supporting organizations that help people facing critical or immediate need.

Nationwide, based in Columbus, Ohio, is one of the largest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the world, with more than \$158 billion in assets. Nationwide ranks #98 on the *Fortune 100* list. The company provides a full range of insurance and financial services, including auto, motorcycle, boat, homeowners, life, commercial insurance, administrative services, annuities, mortgages, mutual funds, pensions and long-term savings plans. For more information, visit www.nationwide.com.

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. Sustained by more than 600 volunteers, the Red Cross provides assistance to more than 400 families each year after home fires and other disasters strike. Last year the organization trained and educated more than 63,000 area residents in vital lifesaving skills like first aid, CPR and how to prepare for emergencies. The Red Cross also sent more than 900 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 14,000 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.

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