



**American
Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

American Red Cross Issues Appeal For Disaster Relief Fund

Anticipates spending in excess of \$15 Million for recent disasters

June 17, 2008 - The American Red Cross anticipates spending millions as it moves forward with relief efforts for the victims of flooding and tornadoes across seven states, an enormous geographic area. From Kansas to West Virginia, the Red Cross is present with vast amounts of clean up supplies, dozens of shelters and tens of thousands of meals.

Already, more than 2,500 Red Cross workers are assisting people in the affected area, including four central Ohio volunteers and an Emergency Response vehicle from the area, and the organization is gearing up to provide additional relief. The current relief operations follow two extremely busy months for the Red Cross, with 27 disaster operations in April and May. These operations will cost the Red Cross millions of dollars and the help of the American public is needed to meet the growing needs.

“Central Ohio has always been a giving community. We have a wonderful group of trained volunteers who are assisting with this response effort and have received calls from others in the community who are eager to lend their financial support to the relief efforts,” says Michael Carroll, American Red Cross of Greater Columbus CEO. “Both locally and on a national level, the American Red Cross relies on public support to assist victims of disaster.

Over the past days, the Red Cross has responded to tornados and flooding in across seven states. More than 8,000 overnight stays have been recorded in more than 90 shelters and more than 270,000 meals and snacks have been served. This spring, the American Red Cross responded to more than 30 large scale disasters due to severe weather.

The Red Cross encourages those affected to register their status on the Safe and Well Web site on www.redcross.org so loved ones can know they are safe.

It is anticipated that relief efforts will cost tens of millions of dollars. In order to quickly respond to anyone with disaster-caused needs, the Red Cross must have money available immediately. This emergency resource is provided by the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

Visit www.redcross.org to find out the latest information and learn how you can help; you can also visit <http://redcrossmidwestflooding.wordpress.com/maps/> to view an interactive map for the current Red Cross response.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of thousands of disasters across the country each year, disasters like the tornadoes and floods in the Central United States, by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of disaster. The American Red Cross honors donor intent. If you wish to designate your donation to a specific disaster please do so at the time of your donation. Call 1-800-REDCROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting www.redcross.org.

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