



**American
Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Pickerington Resident Named Red Cross Exceptional Volunteer

June 23, 2008 – Mr. Jan Lenko, a Pickerington resident and 26-year volunteer with the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus (ARCGC), was awarded the 2008 Exceptional Volunteer award at the organization’s annual meeting this month.

As a volunteer health and safety course instructor, Lenko has trained more than 10,000 members of our community in first aid and CPR. Michael Carroll, CEO of the ARCGC commented when presenting Lenko with his award, “What we can’t calculate, though we know they are out there, are the number of people who’s lives have been saved or whose injuries were less damaging because someone that Jan taught remembered what he said about how to do chest compressions or bind a bleeding wound.”

Carroll went on to say, “All of our instructors encourage students to think about becoming Red Cross volunteers either as an instructor or in another service; many who have been in Jan’s class take that next step because he models humility and quiet confidence alongside intense dedication – key ingredients for volunteer service.”

Lenko, employed at American Electric Power, trains AEP staff in CPR and first aid. In addition to Lenko’s personal financial gifts in support of ARCGC’s work, AEP makes a financial contribution for every hour Lenko volunteers.

Visit columbus.redcross.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities and how to enroll in a first aid and CPR class.

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.

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