



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Henry's Kitchen Leaving Springfield, Prepared to Meet Possible Hurricane

Springfield, IL: Henry's Kitchen will be leaving Springfield at approximately 6:00 p.m. today (Monday), heading to a Red Cross hurricane staging area in Montgomery, Alabama, in preparation to provide disaster relief in response to a possible hurricane. Red Cross volunteer, Bill Wilson, will be driving Henry's Kitchen.

Henry's Kitchen is the National American Red Cross mass-feeding unit and is the first of its kind for the American Red Cross Disaster Services Program. It is a self-contained, 53-foot trailer, designed to produce up to 10,000 hot meals daily within heavily impacted disaster areas. The unit can function in a stand-alone mode or be connected to working community water and electrical systems. It contains potable water and wastewater disposal tanks, two propane tanks and a 50-kilowatt silent running generator. The kitchen facilities include 3 tilt skillets, a 40-gallon steam kettle, 2 stacked convection ovens, a 50-gallon hot water heater, 2 burner hot plates, 3 stainless steel sinks, a walk-in freezer and refrigerator. The unit also carries a pressure washer, gas leak detector, a fire suppression system, plus heating and air conditioning systems.

"We feel a sense of pride every time Henry's Kitchen is deployed from Springfield," said Jenny Antonacci, Community Relations Manager for the American Red Cross, Illinois Capital Area Chapter. "After all, it exemplifies what the Red Cross is all about...helping others in need."

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. To help the Red Cross continue to save lives, contributions can be made to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund by calling 1-888-3HELP NOW. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may also be sent to the Illinois Capital Area Chapter, P.O. Box 1058, 1025 South Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62705-1058.

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