



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jenny Antonacci
Office: 522-3357 x232

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Illinois Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross Updated Response to Hurricanes

Springfield, IL: The Illinois Capital Area Chapter has activated 32 volunteers to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The chapter's volunteers are stationed in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Florida. The volunteers' assignments last approximately three weeks. Responsibilities include assessing damage to homes, evaluating families' emergency needs, serving meals, assisting in shelter sites, and distributing clean-up kits and personal hygiene kits to affected residents.

The Illinois Capital Area Chapter has opened approximately 180 cases of families who evacuated the hurricane-struck areas and come to the Springfield area. The chapter provided assistance to these families to meet their immediate needs, including food, clothing, shelter, medications and counseling. The families have either returned to their previous residence, moved into alternative housing, are still receiving assistance to ensure that their emergency needs are met and to establish a long-term plan for recovery.

The community has donated approximately \$700,000 through the Illinois Capital Area Chapter to assist the hurricane victims.

The best way to help is by making a financial contribution to the American Red Cross. Contributions may be made online at www.redcross.org or by calling 1-800-HELP-NOW or the Illinois Capital Area Chapter at 217-522-3357. Donations may also be sent to the Illinois Capital Area Chapter at P.O. Box 1058, 1025 South Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62705-1058. All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people.

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