



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross Responds to Hurricane Katrina

Springfield: The Illinois Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross has launched a significant response to Hurricane Katrina. The Chapter has activated nine volunteers to join more than 3,000 other Red Cross volunteers in response to the disaster. The chapter's volunteers are stationed in Alabama, Louisiana, Texas and Florida. The volunteers' assignments will last approximately three weeks. Responsibilities will 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 45 cases of families who evacuated the hurricane-struck areas and come to the Springfield area. The chapter is providing assistance to these families to meet their immediate needs, including food, clothing and shelter.

The American Red Cross, with support of the worldwide Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, is launching a Web site to help assist family members who are seeking news about loved ones living in the path of Hurricane Katrina. Visit the "Family Links Registry" via www.redcross.org to register yourself, a missing relative or view the existing list of registrants.

The community has donated more than \$175,000 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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