



Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter  
*Serving the people of Allegan, Cass, Kalamazoo  
and St. Joseph Counties*  
5640 Venture Court, Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 353-6180, (800) 382-6382 (269 area code only)

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Vicki Eichstaedt, (269) 353-6180, ext. 116  
eichstaedt@greaterkzooredcross.org  
[www.greaterkzooredcross.org](http://www.greaterkzooredcross.org)

**For Immediate Release**

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### Local Red Cross volunteers lending a hand to flood victims in Georgia

Kalamazoo, MI, September 25, 2009 – The American Red Cross sheltered more than 420 people in Georgia and Tennessee overnight, a signal that even though flood waters are slowly receding in some areas, many are still unable to return to their homes.

The Red Cross has more than 200 volunteers and staff and 18 Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) in the area with more on standby. Three local volunteers will be among those providing help for people with emergency need as a result of the flooding. Clean up and comfort kits are being distributed and almost 2,000 meals have been served to those affected by the flooding. Officials say early estimates show as many as 3,000 homes may be affected with damages estimated at \$250 million.

Red Cross is partnering with Southern Baptist Convention which has one mobile kitchen in operation and another on alert if needed. Other partners include Samaritan's Purse, Georgia Association of Food Banks, Church of Latter Day Saints, Church World Service, and NECHAMA.

“Our focus is on making people as comfortable as possible, feeding them and taking care of their immediate needs,” said Joe Becker, Red Cross Disaster Services senior vice president, “we have the workers, equipment and supplies here on the ground to do that with more on standby if needed.”

Help people affected by disasters like the current floods by donating to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for disasters and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance to victims of all disasters. Call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to the Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, 5640 Venture Ct., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting [www.greaterkzooredcross.org](http://www.greaterkzooredcross.org) or [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

