



Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter
*Serving the people of Allegan, Cass, Kalamazoo
and St. Joseph Counties*
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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

In the Face of Unthinkable Tragedy; the Community Responds

KALAMAZOO, MI, - April 30, 2009 – After the devastating fire which destroyed the home at 6835 West N Avenue last Saturday, a grief stricken family mourns the loss of four children. The Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross has been working with the family since Saturday, assisting with their immediate emergency disaster caused needs. Caseworkers continue to meet with family members still requiring assistance and are making referrals to other community agencies and resources as appropriate.

Once again our compassionate community, neighbors and friends have come forward to offer aid and comfort. In addition to the Red Cross, the family has worked with The Salvation Army, The Whitley Funeral Home, and the Christian Life Center. As the days unfold with new challenges for the family, their needs will change. Emergency services providers like the Red Cross will be replaced by organizations and individuals that will help with long-term solutions.

The Red Cross encourages donations to the Local Disaster Relief Fund so that we may continue to assist this family and all of those who may need our services in the future. Gifts to the Local Disaster Relief Fund provide food, clothing, shelter, counseling and more for the people of Allegan, Cass, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph counties. Whether it is a multiple unit fire affecting 41 families or one home affecting one person, the loss is as devastating to each. With continued support of Red Cross Local Disaster Relief, all people in our communities can count on the Red Cross to be there when you need us.

About the American Red Cross: The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and counsels victims of disasters; provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply; teaches lifesaving skills; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization – not a government agency - and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its humanitarian mission. For more information on the Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, please visit www.greaterkzooredcross.org.

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