



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

YOU CAN HELP THE RED CROSS WITH HURRICANE RELIEF

Local Red Cross Disaster Volunteers Already Deployed; Residents Urged to Donate to the American Red Cross National Disaster Relief Fund

KALAMAZOO, MI, August 29, 2008—While Hurricane Gustav was still gaining strength in the open waters of the Atlantic and a sister storm, Hanna, poised to follow, volunteers with the Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross were preparing to respond to the impending disaster. The American Red Cross is ready and planning for a major event.

Two volunteers were deployed on Wednesday, August 27, driving the Chapter's Emergency Response Vehicle to Mississippi to be ready to move into action as soon as the storm passes. Thirteen additional local volunteers have been mobilized for the relief operations. They will travel to Red Cross staging areas just outside the hurricane zone as quickly as possible. The American Red Cross is mobilizing for a massive relief operation in the aftermath of these storms and more local volunteers may be assigned to the relief operations. For the latest on the American Red Cross response, go to www.redcross.org.

Our nation has suffered an active summer of natural disasters, local disaster volunteers have been deployed to the Midwest tornadoes and flooding, Hurricanes Dolly and Fay. Due to the magnitude of these disasters, the National Disaster Relief Fund is empty.

The most effective way residents of Southwest Michigan can help the American Red Cross carry out its disaster relief mission for the victims of 2008 Hurricanes (and the thousands of other disasters large and small that strike American communities annually) is to make a tax-deductible financial donation to the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF).

You can donate to the Fund through the Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter or directly to American Red Cross Headquarters. To donate on line, go to www.greaterkzooredcross.org or www.redcross.org. To donate by phone you may call the Chapter at (269) 353-6180 or call toll free 1-800-HELP NOW. Donations also can be mailed or brought to the Chapter at 5640 Venture Court, Kalamazoo, MI 49009, or mailed to American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

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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