



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. 169
eichstaedt@greaterkzooredcross.org
www.greaterkzooredcross.org

For Immediate Release

Fox Ridge Residents Find Help and Hope

KALAMAZOO, MI - July 2, 2009 – As the residents of the Fox Ridge Apartments sought to put their lives back together after Tuesday's late night fire, the American Red Cross worked alongside them. The Kalamazoo Area Chapter has assisted 29 families, totaling 93 people affected by the fire. The Chapter has provided \$13,648 in direct assistance to the victims to meet their immediate emergency disaster caused needs. Food, clothing, infant supplies, prescription replacements and shelter were all made available in less than 48 hours after the disaster struck. The shelter which was opened at Hillside Middle School had an overnight population of 15 people last night July 1. This afternoon 8 people from 2 families rested at the shelter. As the management of Fox Ridge works to find new accommodations for some residents, and others move on, the need for the shelter diminishes. The Red Cross plans to keep the shelter open this evening. The shelter will remain operational through the night and for as long as there are clients from this fire that require housing. The shelter will be locked for the night at 10:00 p.m.

As the Red Cross continues to provide for the emergency disaster caused needs of these clients; it is important to recognize that the Red Cross is able to respond immediately in situations such as this due to the generosity of the public. You can help people affected by disasters like this fire, 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 provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of all disasters. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your **local American Red Cross chapter** or to the American Red Cross, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting www.redcross.org.

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.

####

####