



*Together, we can save a life*

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## ***News Release***

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **RESPONDING TO KATRINA'S GULF COAST ASSAULT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS CONTINUES MASSIVE RELIEF EFFORTS**

**WINSTON-SALEM, Sept. 6, 2005** – The American Red Cross is off to a record-setting pace in its drive to bring shelter, food and safe drinking water to the tens of thousands of Americans impacted by Hurricane Katrina's savage assault on the Gulf Coast. Across the Northeast, American Red Cross chapters continue to assist families and individuals devastated by the hurricane's onslaught. The American Red Cross is supporting the efforts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in welcoming 2500 evacuees to Camp Edwards, at Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, beginning this morning.

"This is the largest response to a single natural disaster in the 125 years of the American Red Cross, and there's no doubt it will set many records in terms of the length and expanse of the operation. This will test our skills and our resources to the extreme, but the American Red Cross will be just as strong as the will of the American people, and we all know that's a will that won't fail," said Joe Becker, Senior Vice President, Preparedness and Response for the American Red Cross.

The American Red Cross continues to meet the staggering challenge of providing relief to thousands of survivors in the widespread path of devastation and destruction left by Hurricane Katrina. To date, the Red Cross has housed 142,000 survivors in almost 500 shelters. The American Red Cross has served more than 3.3 million hot meals to survivors of Hurricane Katrina since before first landfall. The sheer volume of people affected, as well as the extensive geographical area impacted will require long-term massive feeding and sheltering operations for many months to come. 90,000 square miles have been affected—about the same size as Great Britain.

In order to accomplish this extraordinary level of relief, over 5,500 trained Red Cross disaster specialists have been deployed in 13 states and at the Red Cross national headquarters in Washington, D.C. Recruitment is continuing and local chapters across the country are expanding training for thousands of spontaneous volunteers who are willing to make the priceless donation of their time and skills to this enormous humanitarian outreach.

With families, friends and colleagues scattered in the face of Katrina's fury, the American Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross have established the "Family Links Registry" to enable people to re-establish those essential relationships. Within 24 hours, more than 20,000 people had

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registered their whereabouts, and the website was receiving a tidal wave of visitors. The “Family Links Registry” can be accessed through [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or by calling toll-free 1-877-LOVED 1S (1-877-568-3317).

*American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of this and thousands of other disasters across the country each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those in need. Call 1-800-HELP NOW 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](http://www.redcross.org).*

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