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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GREATER NEW YORK
OFFERS DISASTER VOLUNTEER TRAINING ON STATEN ISLAND**

Prepare To Respond To Emergencies On Staten Island,
In New York City And State, Across the Country

Hosted by Assemblyman Matthew Mirones

New York – July 17, 2006 -- Are you ready and able to help family, friends, co-workers and neighbors on Staten Island during an emergency?

A free disaster volunteer training class offered by the American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY)-Staten Island will help you prepare to respond effectively during a local emergency. The training also will help you qualify to serve as a Red Cross disaster service volunteer in New York City, New York State, or across the country. ARC/GNY is the largest Red Cross chapter in the U.S. and helps nine million people in New York City and Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan Counties prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

The free four-hour training session, conducted by highly experienced instructors from ARC/GNY and hosted by New York State Assemblyman Mathew Mirones, will be held Saturday, September 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at New Dorp High School, 465 New Drop Lane, Staten Island, NY 10306. Lunch will be served compliments of Boulder Creek Steakhouse.

To register online, go to www.nyredcross.org/fasttrack. For more information, contact ARC/GNY-Staten Island at 718-983-1600 or siredcross@arcgny.org, or Assemblyman Mirones' district office at 718-667-5891.

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“This free training is designed to prepare Staten Island residents to serve as Red Cross disaster service volunteers,” said Suzanne Lutz, director, American Red Cross in Greater New York-Staten Island. “Once certified, our volunteers will be able to support their community during a local emergency and support large-scale relief efforts elsewhere in the country.”

Upon completion of the training, Red Cross disaster service volunteers:

- Receive Red Cross certification in “Introduction to Disaster Services” and “Community Services” courses.
- Are eligible to respond to local fires, blackouts, structure collapses and floods.
- Can enroll for advanced free Red Cross disaster response training.
- Are qualified to take the next steps to support relief efforts elsewhere in the country.

Volunteer opportunities are available in the five boroughs of New York City and Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan Counties. Volunteer specialists will match talents, interests and availability with opportunities, which include helping victims of disasters, teaching health and safety programs, and providing translation services. Students (ages 14-18) can join the Red Cross Youth Group to participate in all service areas while also helping organize community programs for homeless children and disaster victims.

The American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) provides immediate aid to more than 100,000 people affected by more than 3,000 emergencies a year, including fires, floods, building collapses and blackouts. It helps New York residents and businesses prepare for emergencies by offering hundreds of courses in life saving skills, first aid, swim safety, adult/child CPR and free emergency preparedness training programs. The chapter continually works with partner agencies to plan and prepare for major natural and man-made disasters. ARC/GNY is not a governmental organization and relies on individual and corporate gifts, special events and grants from foundations and local, state and federal government to fund its essential programs and services. For more information, call 1-877 RED CROSS (1-877-733-2767), or visit www.nyredcross.org.

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