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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GREATER NEW YORK
RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM THE HOME DEPOT**

*Helping Children From Ethnically Diverse Lower Income NYC Neighborhoods
Learn About The Importance Of Emergency Preparedness*

New York – October 10, 2006 – The American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) today announced that it has received a \$10,000 grant from The Home Depot®, the world’s largest home improvement retailer, to introduce the importance of personal family and community disaster preparedness to children from ethnically diverse and lower economic New York City neighborhoods. This grant will enable ARC/GNY to develop a model for *Together We Prepare-Levels 1 and 2* that will serve as a prototype to educate children about the need for preparation in the event of a man-made or natural disaster.

The *Together We Prepare* model, presented by current instructors and new volunteers in an entertaining and engaging manner, will serve 300 students. Students will be encouraged to share their lessons with families, friends and neighbors to raise awareness for the importance of preparedness in the general community. The schools that will participate in the program will be selected during the current school year.

“In these uncertain times, it is vital that the children and families in New York are prepared for both the natural and man-made disasters, great and small,” said Theresa A. Bischoff, CEO, American Red Cross in Greater New York. “These programs offer basic and useful information about creating a plan and assembling supplies so that families can cope with any emergency with confidence. We are grateful to The Home Depot for generously helping fund our expanding preparedness training efforts with the people of New York.”

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The American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) is a humanitarian partner and a key participant in New York’s plans and programs to help the nine million people in New York City and Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan Counties prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. The largest Red Cross Chapter in the U.S., 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. The chapter continually works with partner agencies to plan and prepare for major natural and man-made disasters. It helps New York residents and businesses prepare for emergencies by offering hundreds of courses in first aid, CPR and aquatics and free emergency preparedness training programs and resources. 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.

The grant is part of a three-year initiative between The Home Depot and the American Red Cross to educate one million people across the country on disaster preparedness. In addition to providing grants to forty select Red Cross chapters for local preparedness projects, the partnership also calls for the dissemination of disaster preparedness information and tips through a series of national and market-specific educational clinics and in-store collateral materials.

“The Home Depot has a history of being a champion for its communities and providing significant relief and recovery support immediately following a disaster,” said Kevin Martinez, director of community affairs for The Home Depot. “At the same time, we also work to educate our neighbors on the importance of disaster preparedness and to minimize the loss associated with these devastating events. By partnering with the Red Cross, we are providing our communities with additional tools to help them rebound quickly and completely.”

The Home Depot’s *Rebuilding Hope & Homes* disaster relief program offers communities an ongoing cycle of support, characterized by engagement with local leaders and investment in local programs. The Home Depot prepares its communities through local and national awareness programs, responds with needed supplies and store support in the wake of the disasters, and assists in recovery efforts through volunteerism, financial support and in-kind contributions.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has helped people mobilize to help their neighbors for 125 years. Last year, victims of a record 72,883 disasters, most of them fires, turned to the nearly 1 million volunteers and 35,000 employees of the Red Cross for help and hope. Through more than 800 locally supported chapters, more than 15 million people each year gain the skills they need to prepare for and respond to emergencies in their homes, communities and world. Almost 4 million people give blood—the gift of life—through the Red Cross, making it the largest supplier of blood and blood products in the United States. The Red Cross helps thousands of U.S. service members separated from their families by military duty stay connected.

As part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, a global network of more than 180 national societies, the Red Cross helps restore hope and dignity to the world's most vulnerable people. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money and blood to do its work.

About The Home Depot

The Home Depot® is the world's largest home improvement specialty retailer, with 2,088 retail stores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, 10 Canadian provinces and Mexico. Through its HD SupplySM businesses, The Home Depot is also one of the largest diversified wholesale distributors in the United States, with more than 900 locations in the United States and Canada offering products and services for building, improving and maintaining homes, businesses and municipal infrastructures. In fiscal 2005, The Home Depot had sales of \$81.5 billion and earnings of \$5.8 billion. The Company employs approximately 355,000 associates and has been recognized by FORTUNE magazine as the No. 1 Most Admired Specialty Retailer and the No. 13 Most Admired Corporation in America for 2006. The Home Depot's stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: HD) and is included in the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index.

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