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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GREATER NEW YORK
SALUTES ITS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS**

**Award Winners From New York City, Rockland And Sullivan
-- High School Students To Senior Citizens --**

Special Award For Celebrated Photographer Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

New York – June 6, 2007 -- Volunteers from New York City and Rockland and Sullivan counties, along with celebrated photographer Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, the Association for Metroarea Autistic Children, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and Credit Suisse, will receive special honors from the American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) for their extraordinary commitment to helping New Yorkers and those in need elsewhere in the U.S. and worldwide with disaster relief services, emergency preparedness and safety education.

The 2007 ARC/GNY awards will be presented at the volunteer recognition ceremony held at the chapter's headquarters at 520 West 49th Street in Manhattan on Thursday, June 7. The event will mark the first volunteer recognition ceremony at ARC/GNY's new headquarters, which opened last September to better serve the people of New York City and Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan counties.

“All that we do could not be accomplished without the support of our thousands of volunteers who give their time, energy, caring and commitment to the Red Cross and the people of this area,” said Theresa A. Bischoff, CEO, American Red Cross in Greater New York. “Their indispensable role every day provides crucial immediate humanitarian assistance to all New Yorkers when they are most distraught, most vulnerable, most in need. Our work makes a big difference to those touched by disaster.”

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ARC/GNY volunteers who will be celebrated have made significant contributions to the Red Cross, to the Greater New York chapter and to the people of New York. Their accomplishments include:

- Helping reunite families separated through war, political conflict or natural disaster through the Restoring Family Links International Tracing Program.
- Developing the chapter's mental health program to help those affected by fires and other disasters by providing counseling, guidance and comfort during difficult situations.
- Providing staffing for the Red Cross disaster action teams (DAT) that respond to emergencies throughout the city and counties to reach residents when they most need assistance.
- Teaching swimming and water safety to children, train lifeguards for local public and private beaches and pools, and teach courses in first aid and CPR to help residents and professional emergency responders learn the latest safety procedures.
- Creating the International Services Program to coordinate training classes -- *International Humanitarian Law* and *The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* – for Red cross staff, volunteers and the general public to learn more about humanitarianism worldwide and the guiding principles of the Red Cross.

“In these times of uncertainty, when major natural or made-made emergencies are a real possibility in New York, we rely on the selflessness of our volunteers,” continued Ms. Bischoff. “In addition to saluting the contributions of our current volunteers, we continue to call upon additional New Yorkers to join us as we need triple our volunteer base, recruiting and training 10,000 volunteers who will be ready to help us fulfill our mission of providing shelter, food and counseling to our neighbors during emergencies, to teach new parents infant CPR, and to teach our children about water safety.”

During 2006, chapter volunteers responded to 2,939 local emergencies with effectiveness and compassion to deliver crucial relief to close to 15,000 people. As of May of this year, the chapter has responded to 1,278 emergencies and assisted 7,474 people.

Responses have included:

- Supporting the families devastated by the fire that took the lives of 10 people, nine of them young children, in The Bronx in March. Quietly and compassionately, the chapter provided vital and on-going assistance to the families, including housing at a nearby hotel, emergency financial assistance for food and the purchase of clothing and hygiene supplies, a substantial grant for funeral assistance and mental health counseling.
- Helping hundreds of people affected by flooding in Orange County during the April nor'easter. A shelter assisted 90 residents. More than 500 meals were served to residents at the shelter or distributed throughout the community.
- The six-alarm fire that drove 129 residents, including 46 children, from their six-story apartment house (1056 Neilson Street) in The Rockaways and into the bitter cold during the early morning hours of a Sunday in February. The Red Cross opened a reception center in the gymnasium of Brian Piccolo Middle School (MS 53) to provide residents with a warm, safe and secure location. They received hot and cold drinks and food, health and mental health services, financial assistance for food, clothing and emergency supplies, and accommodations were provided at area hotels for families who could not make other arrangements.

ARC/GNY provides immediate aid to more than 100,000 people affected by 3,000 emergencies a year, including fires, floods, building collapses and blackouts. Given the uncertainties of today's world, the chapter is accelerating its collaboration with partner agencies to develop and implement readiness plans to respond to major natural and man-made disasters. The chapter also 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 about volunteering, donating and training, call 1-877 REDCROSS (1-877-733-2767), or visit www.nyredcross.org.

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Information about award recipients follow.

AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GREATER NEW YORK
2007 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Special Recognition Awards –

Carlos Portes

Carlos Portes of Manhattan, a past chair of the organization's Manhattan advisory board and past member of its board of trustees, has been a consummate volunteer, a passionate advocate for the Red Cross, an eloquent spokesperson, and a generous contributor of his time, talents and experience. Mr. Portes volunteered immediately after 9/11. Working with a small team of volunteers and employees, he developed and implemented a regional communications plan. He became a translator for international media and the voice of the Red Cross for the Spanish press and Hispanic residents of New York. He served in the same capacity during the December 2004 Southeast Asia tsunami and Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in 2005. Mr. Portes also actively sought support for Red Cross funding from the New York City Council and from influential state senators and assembly members on behalf of all Red Cross chapters in New York.

Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

Renowned photographer Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, who resides in Putnam County and Manhattan, generously volunteered his time and talent to create the dramatic American Red Cross Hometown Heroes Celebrity Portrait Campaign. In his 30-year career, Mr. Greenfield-Sanders has photographed hundreds of world leaders, celebrities and every day people. Many of his works are included in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum, The Whitney Museum and The National Portrait Gallery. He is a contributing photographer at Vanity Fair and his iconic images can be seen in magazines worldwide and in numerous published works.

The goal of the Hometown Heroes campaign, photographed at Mr. Greenfield-Sanders' Manhattan studio, is to encourage volunteerism with the American Red Cross by highlighting the diversity of the organization's volunteer corps. The portrait campaign serves as an elegant metaphor of what Red Cross volunteers do every day -- touch lives by providing help and comfort. New York Red Cross volunteers in the campaign have been photographed with celebrity supporters of the organization -- actresses Vivica A. Fox, Marcia Gay Harden, Julianne Moore and Elisabeth Rohm, and musician Paul Shaffer.

Clara Barton Award – Dottie Brier

ARC/GNY's most prestigious award recognizes an exceptional volunteer who has made outstanding contributions by serving the organization in multiple capacities for at least five years.

After a full career as a clinical social worker practitioner, administrator and educator, Dottie Brier of Manhattan volunteered in 1992. She has been a teacher, role model and mentor to everyone who is currently part of the disaster mental health group. Ms. Brier initially helped with family service work and individual client services, then volunteered during the Hurricane Andrew response in Florida. A few months later, she was assigned to the New York City morgue to support the families of those who died during the 1993 World Trade Center disaster. After returning from volunteering as a mental health coordinator at the Oklahoma City bombing in May 1995, Ms. Brier developed the mental health program in New York. She has assisted at numerous local disasters, often in the lead mental health role. During the 9/11 World Trade Center response she supervised hundreds of spontaneous mental health volunteers.

“I feel I’m giving back to society,” said Ms. Brier. “I’m committed to the mission of the Red Cross and believe that we do just the kind of work that needs to be done. And I like the respect the Red Cross gives to volunteers. They use us to our full capacity.”

Partnership Award – The Rundle Family

Exemplifies and promotes outstanding job performance and cooperative partnership work between a volunteer and staff member.

Damaris Rundle, assistant director of response for ARC/GNY - Orange/Sullivan, and her husband, Irving, a corrections officer and volunteer, have worked tirelessly as a team for 12 years, responding to nearly every incident in Sullivan County. Residents of Monticello, they participated in more than 50 disaster responses during 2006, providing a helping hand to more than 60 families.

Mrs. Rundle's mother, Eva Ospina, who will be 90 in July, and the couple's children and grandchildren are, have been, or are now eagerly anticipating becoming Red Cross volunteers. In earlier years, Ms. Ospina accompanied her daughter on responses, helping with casework, supervising children as Ms. Rundle spoke with their parents and translating for Spanish-speaking clients. The couple's son, Dennis, is a former Red Cross-trained lifeguard and a disaster instructor. Their granddaughter, Kaycee, volunteers at the office and helps at shelters by babysitting or running errands. When she was younger, she would talk with children whose homes had been destroyed to help calm their fears. Another granddaughter, Skye, anxiously is waiting for the moment when she can volunteer.

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Ms. Rundle has been a Red Cross volunteer or employee since the 1970s, working for chapters in Florida, Texas and Alaska. In 1992, back in New York, she volunteered in Sullivan County and eventually became an employee as a health and safety specialist. In 1996, she became disaster action team coordinator for Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan counties. Presently, she is responsible for Orange and Sullivan counties.

“I like the feeling I get at the end of the day knowing that I made a difference,” said Ms. Rundle. “I like helping someone take a couple of steps forward after a devastating fire.”

John McGee Memorial Award – Mindy Carpenter

This award recognizes the work of a paid staff member, nominated by a volunteer, who has made an outstanding contribution to strengthening ARC/GNY’s volunteer program. It is named in memory of John McGee, who as a volunteer and staff member served as a disaster services training instructor, a Queens disaster action team (DAT) member, a volunteer resources coordinator, a youth services volunteer and much more.

Jersey City resident Mindy Carpenter, assistant director for the New York City Response Volunteer Program, has worked tirelessly to recruit and build the program that is comprised of individual responders and DATs in New York City. She ensures that each volunteer is a perfect fit for each team. To increase volunteer confidence and competence, she helped develop a responder handbook that clearly explains procedures.

“I love working with the volunteers,” she said. “They go above and beyond what’s needed. They give up weekends and evenings, often working six- to eight-hour nights after they’ve put in a full day at their jobs. They stay until a response is complete, not when their shift ends.”

Corporate Community Partnership Award – Credit Suisse

Presented to an organization that strives to help the American Red Cross in Greater New York help others.

For many years Credit Suisse Americas, the U.S. unit of the Zurich-based global investment bank Credit Suisse, has been a special corporate friend of the chapter. The ethical values of Credit Suisse -- including fairness, integrity, confidentiality and transparency -- are similar to many of the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Red Cross volunteerism at Credit Suisse includes leadership by senior management (Don Callahan and Patrick Durkin, two Credit Suisse managing directors, serve on the chapter's board of trustees), participation by staff members who created the chapter's young professionals committee and the establishment of a trained disaster response team of employees. More than 25 employees have participated in Red Cross disaster training. This past February, during days of frigid cold, some of these employees volunteered at warming centers opened for residents in The Bronx and Brooklyn.

“Our volunteers feel good about having disaster response skills, and they are thrilled to have an opportunity to help others in the community,” said Jennifer Bornemann of Credit Suisse. “If they can help even one person who is without heat on a zero-degree night, they feel grateful to be able to do that.”

Good Neighbor Award – The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA)

Presented to an individual or organization outside of the American Red Cross for making a significant humanitarian contribution to the local community in support of American Red Cross in Greater New York.

Founded in 1883, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA), an umbrella organization of 60 trade, professional, religious, cultural and women's organizations representing a cross-section of New York's Chinese community, is the largest Chinese-American community service organization on the U.S. East Coast. ARC/GNY and CCBA are coordinating programs that will help prepare and train the Chinese community for emergencies. CCBA has helped the Red Cross provide presentations, classes and printed materials in Mandarin and Cantonese.

“CCBA will work closely with the Red Cross to recruit volunteers, host events and provide training and seminars to benefit our communities,” said CCBA president Eric Ng, who is a member of the chapter's Manhattan office advisory board. “These programs are very important to Chinese-Americans. We are all aware of the importance of disaster preparedness.”

Special Citation for Non-profit Teamwork – Association for Metroarea Autistic Children, Inc. (AMAC)

This past summer, 24 adult students aided by three staff members from the Manhattan-based Association for Metroarea Autistic Children Inc. (AMAC) provided the chapter's Brooklyn office with extra hands to help create 8,000 public safety information packets that were distributed to Brooklyn residents. Since 1961, AMAC has provided services to help people of all ages with autistic-spectrum disorders. Its goal is to serve the most severely disabled children who cannot be served by other schools.

Community Services Award – Judy Stieglitz

Recognizing an exceptional volunteer who has served for at least one year within areas such as community outreach, the emergency communications center, international training services, or other sectors.

As the volunteer lead for the chapter’s Restoring Family Links International Tracing Program, Riverdale (The Bronx) resident Judy Stieglitz helps reunite families that have been separated through war, political conflict and natural disasters. For more than a year, Ms. Stieglitz has logged up to 28 hours a week in international casework, interviewing clients, searching for missing people, completing tracing applications and has hosted presentations about the Red Cross Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Programs.

“My mother lost her parents in the Holocaust and my father lost his sister and grandparents,” said Ms. Stieglitz. “If I can help to reunite people after a disaster, I find that very meaningful.”

Disaster Planning And Response Award – Nancy Soto

Exceptional leadership that has had a measurable impact on the delivery of service in the area of disaster planning and response.

Every Friday and Sunday, dressed in the distinctive Red Cross responder uniform, Nancy Soto rides the R train from her home in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, to her volunteer assignment as a borough disaster action team (DAT) captain. Curious passengers always ask her what she does and if she is on her way to an emergency.

“I explain that even at a small fire, the Red Cross is always there to help,” said Ms. Soto, “and that they can volunteer to be part of disaster response, community outreach, or even work behind the scenes. I want to be there when a person is in distress, not only to give them a hot meal or a blanket, but to show them someone is there to support them, even with just a hug.”

Diversity Award – Christophe Lobry-Boulanger

Honors a volunteer or group of volunteers who has served for at least one year and whose official job duties do not encompass diversity-related responsibilities, but who incorporates diversity-related tasks into the job.

A native of France and a Manhattan resident, Christophe Lobry-Boulanger came to the U.S. in 1986 as a college undergraduate, receiving his degree from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. While pursuing graduate studies in international affairs in New York, he was hired by the United Nations as a political affairs officer.

After 9/11, Mr. Lobry-Boulanger became a Red Cross volunteer, promising himself two things: “I would do something constructive for my community, and the next time around – and unfortunately I fear there will be a next time – I would be trained and ready inside the family of the Red Cross.”

He now leads a disaster action team (DAT) and is a disaster instructor. He also has helped introduce an International Services Program at the chapter, coordinating training classes such as *International Humanitarian Law* and *The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*.

Kathryn Walter Stein Award – Claudia McLaughlin

Honors the generous donation of its namesake, recognizing an individual who has served for at least one year and who has done exemplary work in aquatics and/or service to the elderly.

Claudia McLaugh of Staten Island has been an aquatics volunteer for more than a decade, teaching aquatics, CPR and children’s water safety classes while also offering weekly support at the Staten Island office. She also has served as a lifeguard at a Jewish community center and is involved with aquatics at the College of Staten Island.

“We’ve taught children from kindergarten through middle school,” she said of her time at the Red Cross. “I think the Red Cross is a great organization. I get all my training materials – books and certificates – for the classes I teach through the Red Cross. I think the community services they put out there for aquatics are terrific.”

Safety And Preparedness Award – Jean Cappello

Presented to an exceptional volunteer who has served for at least one year and has made outstanding contributions to the area of health and safety services.

Jean Cappello of Manhattan became a Red Cross volunteer in September 2005, after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast and a close friend died of a heart attack the same week.

“The ambulance arrived quickly, but it was too late,” she said. “Had my friend known CPR, perhaps her husband would have lived.”

Ms. Cappello was galvanized to renew her decades-out-of-date Red Cross CPR certification and to volunteer to help those affected by Katrina. She now teaches first aid, CPR, classes for professional rescuers and even pet first aid. By July, she will be a safety and preparedness instructor trainer.

Support Services Award – Dina Guertler

Honors an exceptional volunteer who has served for a minimum of one year and who functions in a support services role.

Every weekday, Dina Guertler of Forest Hills, Queens, does everything that is needed at the Queens office in Briarwood, where she began volunteering in January 2005. As the office receptionist, she provides many callers and visitors with vital information and referrals for Red Cross and other community services.

Among Ms. Guertler’s other assignments: translates for Spanish-speaking residents, coordinates safety and preparedness activities, helps people register for classes, and attends community events.

Why does Ms. Guertler, who previously worked in accounting at American Express for 33 years and then in patient relations at St. John’s Hospital, do all of this? “I like helping people,” she said. “I love my work at the Red Cross.”

First Year Award – Lawrence V. Rivera

Honors an exceptional volunteer who has served for less than one year and has made an outstanding contribution to the success of a particular service area or project activity.

Lawrence Rivera of West Haverstraw in Rockland County has achieved an enormous amount in an extremely short time, doing literally everything he can to help the Red Cross. He completed the five basic disaster courses. He is a member of the Rockland and Manhattan disaster action teams, is a trained presenter of safety and preparedness classes, and has received bilingual instructor certifications for various programs. As the Haverstraw Red Cross disaster coordinator, Mr. Rivera organizes activities with Rockland officials, emergency planners and responders. He also is the liaison with the town’s Hispanic population.

Mr. Rivera began his involvement with the Red Cross as a child in New York City, when he accompanied his grandmother, a nurse, to local Red Cross functions. When he was 13, his family moved to Puerto Rico, where he continued his Red Cross association as a youth disaster volunteer. At age 16, he opened and managed a shelter there and led youth efforts in rescues, disaster relief and recovery operations.

“The Red Cross brings forth the best in both volunteers and paid staff,” said Mr. Rivera. “You meet the most interesting people in the world. I’ve made friends, people I feel as if I’ve known all my life. I like the ability to serve and to constantly learn how to protect yourself and others at the same time. And none of the information you learn goes to waste.”

Youth College Scholarship Award – Judy Truong

Recognizes exceptional youth volunteers within ARC/GNY who are currently high school seniors, are planning on attending accredited four-year colleges or universities, and have served for at least two years.

For 18-year-old Judy Truong of Brooklyn, a senior at Midwood High School, the Red Cross chapter headquarters in Manhattan is practically her second home. She has accrued nearly 400 volunteer hours since becoming a youth volunteer in 2003. Praised as “conscientious, intelligent and witty” by those who work with her, Ms. Truong has participated in nearly every youth group service area. She guides newcomers through the volunteer orientation process, maintains and updates the chapter’s youth group web page and responds to youth volunteer queries.

Ms. Truong participates in the chapter’s annual book/toy drive and community outreach events, and she serves as an instructor aide certified in standard first aid, infant and child CPR, and adult CPR. She will be attending Hunter College in Manhattan and hopes to continue her volunteer work with the chapter.

Youth Services Award – Jeff Varghese

Recognizes an exceptional youth volunteer within ARC/GNY who has served for at least one year and has demonstrated creativity in developing youth services, organization and leadership in an activity that reflects honor on the youth volunteer and on the Red Cross, and/or an accomplishment of exceptional merit that enhances the Red Cross.

Jeff Varghese of West Nyack in Rockland County joined Clarkstown South High School’s Red Cross Club during ninth grade. As a junior, he has energized the club while serving as president and recruited more than 17 new members. As an active member of the Nanuet Ambulance Corps, Mr. Varghese also is trained in first aid and CPR. He anticipates he will become trained in additional Red Cross disciplines when he turns 18.

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