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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PROMINENT COMMUNITY LEADER DR. CALVIN O. BUTTS
JOINS BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GREATER NEW YORK**

Dr. Butts To Help Guide Organization's Humanitarian Support

New York – August 21, 2007 – The American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) has named Dr. Calvin O. Butts, pastor of the Abyssinian Church in Harlem, as an at-large member of the chapter's board of trustees. Dr. Butts also is president of the State University of New York at Old Westbury.

As an at-large member of the ARC/GNY board, Dr. Butts will join other business and civic leaders who are actively guiding the organization as it implements its strategic plan to increase its capacity to provide humanitarian support for the eight to 10 emergencies that occur every day within the chapter and to prepare for any catastrophic incidents that may occur in New York. This includes scaling up the chapter's capability by rapidly increasing the number of trained volunteers and acquiring the necessary equipment and supplies required to shelter, feed and support the community during a crisis.

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 board consists of prominent New Yorkers from a range of industries that includes finance, law, telecommunications and healthcare, along with active civic leaders.

“Our board of trustees continues to attract the most supportive New York community leaders from our chapter region, and we are pleased to welcome Dr. Butts, who I know will help us continue to do what we do best -- provide support for New Yorkers when they need it most,” said Theresa A. Bischoff, CEO, American Red Cross in Greater New York. “Our strong leadership continues to help us encourage individuals and organizations to volunteer and support the vital work of the Red Cross.”

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Dr. Calvin O. Butts has been pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, one of the largest in Harlem, since 1989. Through his work with the church, he helped form the Abyssinian Development Corporation, a non-profit community development corporation that has accumulated \$300 - \$500 million in development projects for Harlem. The corporation's projects include apartments for the homeless, senior citizen housing and moderate income condominiums. The corporation also played a role in the establishment of the Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change, and it served as co-developer for the Pathmark Supermarket project on 125th Street.

Dr. Butts was named president of SUNY Old Westbury in 1999. Under Dr. Butts' leadership, the university has become one of the most diverse public college campuses in America. Dr. Butts earned his BA from Morehouse College, his Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry from Drew University.

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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