



**American  
Red Cross**

Colonial Crossroads Chapter

# Crossroads Connection



[www.ccnjredcross.org](http://www.ccnjredcross.org)

Spring 2011

## A Call to the Red Cross Nine Years Ago Results in Life-Long Mission to Support Vets

Nine years ago, Madison resident Peter Russo was serving in the US Navy. While Pete was deployed, his grandmother Virginia passed away and the entire family wanted him home for this funeral. Not sure where to turn, Peter's older sister Jennifer Loia reached out to the American Red Cross for help. Within 48 hours, Peter was home. "I still remember that call," says Marisa Hottat, who is the volunteer manager at the Colonial Crossroads Chapter. "You could hear the distress in Jennifer's voice – but also the hope that the Red Cross could help." Through its Service to the Armed Forces Program, the American Red Cross supports military families and their loved ones serving overseas. When births, deaths or medical emergencies occur stateside, the Red Cross will work to bring those men and women back home.

"I just couldn't believe how quickly the Red Cross was able to help us," says Loia, Peter's sister. "Obviously our entire family was missing Peter terribly, and we knew



*Pete Russo and his sister Jennifer Loia*

that he would want to be home for this family occasion." Pete Russo comes from a proud and decorated family of men who have served in the Armed Forces. His great grandfather was a decorated marine and both grandfathers served in the Army/Airforce which was one branch during WWII. An uncle served in the Navy during the Vietnam War and another uncle was a "Jolly Roger" in WWII and the only member of his unit to return home. He was awarded a purple heart.

*cont. on page 2*

## 2010 CHAPTER SCORECARD

**Responded to 21 emergencies** affecting over 3,000 individuals. Locally we responded to emergencies in 8 of our 10 service areas as well as 7 regional and 1 international emergencies.

**Trained 18,857 people** in life-saving skills, such as First Aid, CPR, AED, babysitting, water safety and lifeguarding which represents 14% of our service population.

**Provided disaster preparedness presentations to 372 attendees.**

**Provided nearly 4,000 rides** to ambulatory seniors citizens to medical appointments.

**Delivered 4,100 meals** to house-bound residents in partnership with Sage Eldercare Meals-on-Wheels.

**Generated 1,986 units** of blood through 62 blood drives.

**Coordinated** the volunteer service of more than **500 individuals**. Volunteers comprise more than **97%** of the organization's workforce.

**Provided free use** of more than **349 pieces** of medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, canes, and walkers to members of the community.

**Conducted** more than **480 free blood pressure screenings** with volunteer nurses.

**Helped 42 local military families** communicate with a family member serving in the US Armed Forces during an emergency. Also, provided 3 international tracings.

**Made 484 comfort items** for veterans at Lyons Hospital and community volunteers organized celebrations for these patients and seniors at Morris View Nursing.

### Please join us for *An Hour for the Red*

Tuesday, May 10th  
9:00 – 10:00 am

Hamilton Park Hotel  
Florham Park

This free, one-hour breakfast is a wonderful way to learn what the Red Cross does in your community each and every day. Individuals and corporations are welcome.



*Members of Summit's Junior League at the 2010 Hour for the Red*

Tables of 10 may be reserved.

Contact Elissa Cordrey at 908-273-2076, ext. 18  
or [cordrey@ccnjredcross.org](mailto:cordrey@ccnjredcross.org)

## March is Red Cross Month

Please consider a donation to support our critical programs and services.

Please remit attached envelope or call 908-273-2076  
[www.ccnjredcross.org](http://www.ccnjredcross.org)

## A 30-Minute Class Can Save a Life



Chatham Troop 1095 cuddled with the infant training manikins following their class

Have you heard of *Citizen CPR*? The members of Girl Scout Troop 1095 from Lafayette School in Chatham have not only heard of this life-saving skill but they've learned how to implement it. On Friday, January 14, Troop 1095 stopped by our chapter for a 30-minute *Citizen CPR* class. Learning hands-only CPR can make the difference between life or death when someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest. Unfortunately, less than one-third of those people who experience a cardiac arrest at home, work or in a public location get that help. "Learning the proper way to administer chest compressions is easy," says chapter Preparedness Sales/Marketing Manager Leigh Pafford. "If any of these Girl Scouts were to witness a coach, teacher or instructor collapse, they would now have the knowledge and skills necessary to begin CPR." Marguerite White, a Troop 1095 mom says, "This class was an extremely empowering experience for all these 10-year old girls. I definitely believe that kids this age are old enough to learn these life-saving skills – it provides a foundation for coping with emergencies and knowing what to do when the unexpected occurs." *Citizen CPR* classes can be presented to any community organization or school group. Classes can be held at the chapter house or offsite. Call Leigh Pafford for more information at 908-273-2076, ext 17.

## Disaster Action Team One Team, 10 Towns 24/7/365

Our chapter plays a unique role in the community that is not addressed by any other organization. When disaster strikes, our highly trained team responds to the scene to assist residents who may have lost their home and possessions. Red Cross volunteers help with immediate disaster caused needs such as shelter, food, clothing, replacing prescription medicine; and offer disaster mental health support and guidance through the process of recovery. When a disaster strikes, we will be there for you. For disaster assistance, please call 908-273-2076.



## Chapter Partners with SAGE Eldercare for Meals on Wheels

SAGE Eldercare's Meals on Wheels program was established in 1966 and was one of the first meal delivery services in New Jersey. The Colonial Crossroads Chapter joined as a partner soon after to help deliver professionally planned and prepared meals to people who are frail, homebound or disabled. Chapter volunteer John O'Connor enjoys doing his part. "For so many people this is more than just a meal. It might be the only human contact they have all day," says O'Connor. "It is someone who will stop by with a smile and kind word and ask how they are." O'Connor's partner, a SAGE Volunteer, Beverly Kaczmariski has been working for Meals on Wheels in Summit for 5 1/2 years after 24 years with the Meals on Wheels in Pittsburgh. "In 2010, 500 dedicated volunteers delivered 50,254 meals to more than 280 people," says Marianne Kranz, Director of Meals on Wheels. "The SAGE/Red Cross partnership is a perfect example of how area non-profits can work together to execute a program that takes little time but makes an enormous impact," says Chapter Executive Director Christy Hodde. For more information about the Meals on Wheels program, please call 908-273-5554.



Sage volunteer Kaczmariski and Red Cross volunteer John O'Connor deliver a hot meal to a housebound resident in Springfield

## A 30-Minute Class Can Save a Life

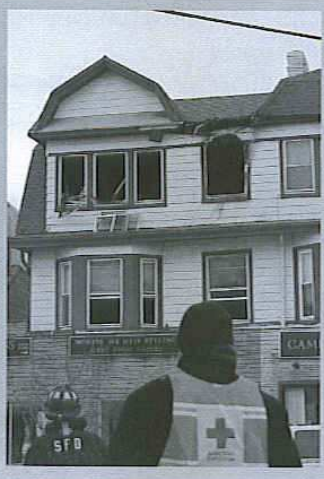


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695 Springfield Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901

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## The Red Cross is Going Green

Help your environment, save paper and reduce printing costs!  
Join our growing online audience. To become *Green* – send an e-mail to [gogreen@ccnjredcross.org](mailto:gogreen@ccnjredcross.org). List your name, company (if applicable), address, phone, and e-mail address or GoGreen by going to:

**[WWW.CCNJREDCROSS.ORG](http://WWW.CCNJREDCROSS.ORG)**

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

#### *Donate Your Car:*

[cars.ccnjredcross.org](http://cars.ccnjredcross.org)

Or call 1-877-REDCRS9

(1-877-733-2779)

#### *Donate Your Clothes:*

For pick up at your home

1-866-468-7228

Drop off locations

Summit: 695 Springfield Ave.

Madison: One Madison Ave.

East Hanover: 8 Melanie Ave.

Berkeley Heights: 649 Springfield Ave.

## Haiti One-Year Report

Since the earthquake struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, the American Red Cross has raised approximately \$479 million for the Haiti relief and recovery efforts. To date, the American Red Cross and the global Red Cross network have provided:

- Medical care for nearly 217,000 patients
- Cash grants and loans to help 220,000 people
- Latrines for 265,000 people
- Daily drinking water for more than 317,000 people
- Emergency shelter materials for more than 860,000 people
- Vaccinations for nearly 1 million people
- Food for 1.3 million people for one month

Red Cross is committed to helping Haitians until the last donor dollar is spent improving the citizens' welfare. This is a long-term, multi-year disaster relief effort.



*One million Haitians vaccinated*



*Cholera Education Program in Haiti*