

## Red Cross Holds Oktoberfest Celebration and Fundraiser

SUMMIT, NJ – The personal philosophy of Oktoberfest honoree and the CEO of Investors Savings Bank, Kevin Cummings, relayed in his introduction by Christine Hodde of the Colonial Crossroads Chapter of the Red Cross, spoke volumes about the purpose of the Oktoberfest celebration: that those with the means to help where help is needed should take the reins of that call head on and strive to make a lasting impact on their community.

Hodde said upon meeting Mr. Cummings that he “eloquently stated his vision, which is to impact in every community that Investors Savings Bank is represented, by putting the money where it works, best: in the hands of those that improve everyday life.”

In Cummings' words to the evening crowd, he stated of Investors Savings Bank, “we don't just want to write a check to help organizations like the Red Cross, we also offer our expertise and our talent.”

The American Red Cross is the largest humanitarian organization in the world, yet “a lot of people just don't know what we do,” said Barbara Flynn, Disaster Relief Coordinator of the Crossroads chapter. Some of the services the Red Cross provides include shelter, food, clothes, wilderness and remote environment survival training, medical relief, and assistance for war veterans.

One service the Red Cross provides that often goes unnoticed is humanity in the form of emotional and practical support. Flynn explained that “standing on the street with a family while their house is burning and supporting them through a terrible disaster, offering comfort and support for things they may not think of like calling their insurance, is just one of those things that can't be valued.”

Another honoree of the night was Bruce Groves of Emilcott Associates, an environmental, health and safety compliance company. Groves has been an active board member of the Colonial Crossroads Chapter for over eight years. Groves has served as board vice chair, chair of strategic planning, and as an executive board member for the Colonial Crossroads Red Cross, among other positions. Groves recently stepped down from the chapter board after eight years of service.

Groves stated, “we would like to get your friends and family to support the Red Cross in what we think of as a great mission.”

After introductory remarks were made, the Colonial Crossroads Red Cross kicked off the fall season with an Oktoberfest worthy of the spirited crowd. Front and center was the silent auction tent offering such prizes as a Disney vacation in Florida, 16 tickets in a luxury suite to watch the New Jersey Devils, 4 seats in the Investors Saving Bank suite for a Devils home game, a wine lovers delight, NY Jets tickets, a family membership at the Summit Area YMCA, and a one night stay at the Hamilton Hilton Park Hotel, to name a few.

The Lenox Underground followed a Bavarian folk music band with some American rock music of their own, as guests were treated to micro-brew beers, wine, a soup table, cheese table, and a very German pretzel table adorned in a variety of the timeless snack.

Julie Siciliano said of her Red Cross staff, "they go above and beyond their 9-5 job. This is about extraordinary people doing extraordinary things."

For information about volunteering, donating, and more at the Colonial Crossroads Chapter of the Red Cross visit [www.ccnjredcross.org](http://www.ccnjredcross.org)