

Red Cross invites public to annual meeting June 23

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The Colonial Crossroads Chapter will hold its annual meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, at the Summit Recreational Center, 100 Morris Ave.

A reception to meet chapter officers, board members and Executive Director Christy Hodde will take place at 4:30 p.m.

The Colonial Crossroads Chapter serves the residents of Summit, Madison, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, Florham Park, East Hanover, Long Hill Township, Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Springfield Township.

"Our annual meeting is open to the public, and we encourage any resident who would like to learn more about our work to attend this event," said Hodde.

"This is also an opportunity for us to recognize the outstanding contributions from our volunteer work force, and we mark the occasion by distributing Volunteer Recognition Awards," Hodde added.

The executive director said the Red Cross chapter has had a busy year, responding to house fires locally, ice storms in southern New Jersey, and floods in the north, and was deployed to support airline passengers stranded at Newark due to the volcanic eruptions in Iceland that shut down airports across Europe.

"Although the Red Cross is known for disaster response, I think a critical component of the chapter's work is filling the gaps in the social services area," said Michael Wattick, chairman of the chapter's board.

"Last year, this chapter provided more than 4,500 free rides to ambulatory seniors to medical appointments," Wattick noted. "In addition, working with SAGE Eldercare, we provided 4,100 Meals on Wheels.

"These are important services that our senior citizens have come to rely on from the Red Cross," Wattick said.

"There are many volunteer opportunities available at our chapter," added Office Manager Marisa Hottat.

"We have students volunteering after school helping us in the area of social media, and seniors who supervise our phones, class appointments and medical equipment loans," Hottat reported.

Overall, the American Red Cross has a 97 percent volunteer workforce, and the Colonial Crossroads Chapter has some 500 volunteers who assist in all areas of the chapter's work.

Light refreshments will be served at the 4:30 p.m. reception, and reservations to attend may be made by calling Office Manager Marisa Hottat at (908) 273-2076, ext. 15.

About The Red Cross

Local Red Cross programs and services include disaster preparedness education and response services; training in such life-saving skills as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the use of an automated electronic defibrillator (AED), first aid, water safety, emergency services for members of the armed forces

and their families, transportation, and blood services.

Members of the public can find out more about the local Red Cross, and how they can donate expertise, time, money or blood; or help their family, business or community prepare for emergencies, by visiting www.ccnjredcross.org.

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