

News & Information

Colonial Crossroads Chapter of the American Red Cross Hosts an Oktoberfest on the Lawn Saturday, October 2nd

By Colonial Crossroads Chapter of the American Red Cross
8/2/2010



SAVE the DATE for the Colonial Crossroads Chapter's annual fall event on Saturday, October 2nd from 5:00 – 9:00pm. This year's Oktoberfest will offer a selection of imported and domestic beers, accompanying hors d'oeuvres with a German flair, music and a

sampling of fine wines for the oenophiles.

"We have extended the hours of this year's event so guests may stop by before dinner or come share a drink later in the evening," says Christy Hodde, executive director. "Last year, we had more than 200 people at our wine tasting which was held on the grounds of our Summit chapter house. So many people enjoyed the opportunity to drink and dine under the stars that we decided to recreate the evening with a slightly different theme."

"Attending the Oktoberfest is a fun way to support our local Red Cross chapter," says Madison Borough Council President Jeannie Tsukamoto. "Many of us Madison residents are disappointed to see that the chapter is closing its facility in Madison. However, I am encouraged to see that the chapter is reducing costs, streamlining programs and services and maximizing donor dollars by consolidating its operations in Summit, a much larger facility. The chapter will continue to provide critical services for Madison residents, just as it has for more than 90 years," Tsukamoto, also Madison Council's public safety liaison this year, adds.

"One of the challenges we face as an organization is to educate the public about how we are funded and what we need to do in order to "keep the doors open" each day," says Chapter Board Chair Terry Brannin of Madison. "Most people have an awareness of the national American Red Cross in Washington, D.C. and the large fundraising campaigns they undertake when responding to large scale disasters such as Haiti. However, those national efforts do not impact our local chapter or our financial well being," adds Brannin. "We have a mandate to support our services through events, mail solicitations, partnerships with community organizations – really anything we can do to generate financial donations. If you believe in the Red Cross and the importance of having a chapter in your community, attending our Oktoberfest is a fun and worthwhile evening."

The Colonial Crossroads Chapter's Disaster Action Team played a critical role in many local, national and even international

emergencies this past year. Responding to house fires, in Springfield, Stirling, Chatham Township and Florham Park, the team was on the scene offering temporary housing, mental health counseling and critical next steps. In addition, the team assisted other chapters during the spring floods that ravaged central and southern New Jersey.

The chapter is also committed to prevention. Through its Be Red Cross Ready program, participants learn specific steps that can be taken to be prepared for an emergency; through its Health and Safety program, more than 18,000 people were trained in life-saving skills such as CPR and AED, First Aid, Water Safety, Babysitting Training and Dog and Cat First Aid.

Oktoberfest general admission tickets start at \$75. Sponsor tickets at \$125 and Patron tickets at \$150 provide admission and inclusion in the event program. To purchase tickets or for sponsorship information, please call Elissa Cordrey, director of development and marketing at 908-273-2076, ext. 18 or visit www.ccnjredcross.org

The Colonial Crossroads Chapter has served the residents of Berkeley Heights, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, East Hanover, Florham Park, Long Hill Township, Madison, New Providence, Springfield and Summit since 1917. To find out more about the local Red Cross, how you can donate your expertise, time, money or blood; or to help your family, business, or community prepare for emergencies, please visit www.ccnjredcross.org

Photo above: *Front row: Marisa Hottat/Volunteer Manager (Chatham) Jeannie Tsukamoto (Madison); Tish Corvino (Florham Park); Terry Brannin (Madison); Back Row: Mary Schaenen/Communications Manager (Madison); Mary Tanaskovic Bitting (Summit); Lauren Cadmus (Chatham); Lauren Cantor (Madison); Susan Dart (Chatham); Elissa Cordrey/Director of Development and Marketing (Summit)*