

Red Cross Prepares to Respond



*A Century of
Community
Service*

CURRENTS

Year End, December 2006

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION AWARDS

Most Americans will agree that helping people and changing lives is a good idea. Not all of us, however, take the time to make a commitment. This is not the case for Red Cross volunteers who willingly, and on an on-going basis offer their time and expertise to help those who are less fortunate. That is why the American Red Cross of Western Connecticut honored more than two dozen of its finest at a Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation reception held December 6th at Dow Chemical in Danbury.

Receiving the Spirit of Volunteerism Award were John Caraszi, Barbara Reardon, Jacqueline Rice and the Chapter's Disaster Management Team.

The Service Excellence Award was presented to Cathy Glazer, Marian Wise, Martha Campbell, Robert Taborsak, Charlie Brady, John Mangin and Karen Bresson.

The Humanitarian Award was presented to Mike Bradbury, and the ABCD (Above and Beyond the Call of Duty) Award was presented to John Ripley and Roland Miller.

Service Years Pin Awards recognize volunteer's length of service to the Red Cross. A dozen pins were presented to volunteers serving from 10 to 35 years of continuous service to the Red Cross.



HOLIDAY BENEFIT CONCERT



On December 9th, Red Cross supporters gathered at the First Congregational Church in Danbury for a Candlelight Holiday Concert performed by the Connecticut Choral Society. A portion of ticket sales will support local programs and services provided by our Western Connecticut Chapter.

The Connecticut Choral Society, based in Southbury, is an ensemble of auditioned amateur and professional singers from more than 20 towns in Connecticut.

Red & White Gala



***Dinner Dance
& Silent Auction***
Member Room Colonnade,
Danbury

March 10, 2007
Call 203-792-8200

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<http://westernct.redcross.org>

THE HISTORY OF THE RED CROSS IS THE HISTORY OF AMERICA

**WIN – WIN
YOU
and the
AMERICAN
RED CROSS
OF WESTERN
CONNECTICUT**



Robert J. Reby, CFP
Author of *Retire Without Worry*

As we close 2006, I would like you to consider two tax reduction actions that would benefit you and the Western Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross. Our local Red Cross chapter has been responding to calls for help for **100 years**. Now is the time for members of the community to reciprocate and reduce 2006 taxable income at the same time.

The first action takes advantage of a recent change that allows charitable gifts to be made directly from an IRA account in 2006 and/or 2007. If you are over 70 1/2 years of age, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year in 2006 and 2007. The IRA distribution(s) will not be included in your income for federal income tax purposes and the transfer counts toward yearly mandatory withdrawals. If you are between the ages of 59 1/2 and 70 1/2, you can still withdraw funds from an IRA account and donate them to our local chapter. The withdrawal is typically reported as income with the charitable gift claimed as an offsetting deduction.

The second action is even simpler to implement. Rather than writing a check at the end of the year, donate appreciated stock with value of up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. Contributing stock rather than cash entitles you to a tax deduction equal to the securities' fair market value...just as if you had sold the shares and contributed cash. Donating the stock directly avoids capital gains taxes for you and the Red Cross chapter. You receive the deduction while they get much-deserved support.

If you call Frank Estes at 1-800-390-1251, he will guide you through either or both of these actions. If you are also thinking beyond the end of the year, he can help you with another WIN – WIN strategy... the use of a charitable remainder trust to squeeze income out of assets throwing off little or no cash -- with no capital gains taxes -- and a generous tax reduction.

I hope you consider taking action between now and the end of the year because the Western Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross needs your help now after responding to community requests for 100 years. While in the holiday spirit, let's repay this debt and help ourselves at the same time. Happy New Year!

Bob Reby is Founder and President of Danbury-based Robert J. Reby & Company, Inc. Founded in 1985, this conservative wealth preservation firm focuses on the financial needs of individuals and small businesses. He is a frequent guest commentator on CNBC-TV's "Power Lunch" and Fox-TV's "Good Day New York." In addition, he is author of a Forbes Top 50 Business Book, *Retire Without Worry*.

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***The Door to your New Home
Could open Doors for the Red Cross***

Peter M. Lerman, a long time supporter and former Red Cross Board member, will donate a full 10% of his commission from the purchase or sale of a home through a referral from the Western Connecticut Chapter. If you or someone you know is buying or selling a home, this is a great way to support the vital work of the Red Cross. Peter works in concert with a large team of experienced professionals at the new Keller Williams office on North Street in Danbury.

Please consider taking advantage of this offer by calling Peter at 203-744-2896.