

CURRENTS

Summer 2006

“100 DAYS TO READY”

The American Red Cross of Western Connecticut is making sure they have the right resources in the right place at the right time to respond to any disaster which may impact our communities. “100 Days to Ready” is a new initiative, put into action over a 100-day period, to improve the Chapter’s existing Disaster Response Plan. Volunteer Red Cross Disaster Services members will identify shortfalls and obtain and develop resources to manage a full-scale relief operation should a major disaster strike our area.

“Disaster readiness response is our primary goal,” said Robert “Rocky” Tomlinson, Director of Emergency and Community services. During the next 100 days, the Western Connecticut Chapter will be building a process of disaster response by implementing plans for recruiting, training and developing staff, acquiring material resources and developing key community relationships. Concentration will be on five priority services, known as “The Big Five.” These are 1) to provide initial sheltering 2) to conduct fixed and mobile feeding operations 3) to staff local government emergency operations centers 4) to assess the impact of the disaster and 5) to conduct fundraising activities.

Danbury Headquarters
2 Terrace Place
Danbury, CT 06810
203-792-8200
arc.western.ct@snet.net

Sharon Office
1 Low Road
Sharon, CT 06069
red.cross01@snet.net

New Milford Branch
40 Main Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-354-3415
red.cross01@snet.net

Visit our web site:
<http://westernct.redcross.org>



Chapter volunteers work with newly formed Disaster Management Team to be better prepared for disaster response. L to R are Marquerite Whitney of Washington, Betsy Kranshaar of Newtown, Rocky Tomlinson, Red Cross Director of Emergency and Community Services and Christine Marano of Danbury.

“100 Days to Ready” was kicked-off recently at a Red Cross Disaster Volunteer meeting held at Hatter’s Park in Danbury, and was followed-up with a workshop at the New Milford Red Cross Branch. Working under a newly formed Red Cross Disaster Management Team, more than 30 volunteers discussed sheltering, mobile feeding operations, damage assessment, and government and community relations.

In addition, staff personnel and trained volunteers will participate in a Tabletop Exercise on August 2nd to test the Chapter’s disaster planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities. As if in the midst of a real disaster, responders and participants will work through the experience, define their roles, and learn what to do to administer aid and support in all areas of disaster response.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 10
Taste of Danbury
Danbury Green

September 13
New Milford Rotary
Red Cross Golf
Tournament
Silo Ridge

September 13
Danbury Westerners
Charity Golf Tournament
Ridgefield Country Club

October 26
Annual Meeting
Centennial Celebration
Tarrywile Mansion

December 9/10 (tbd)
CT Choral Society Concert
Congregational Church
Danbury

BOB DYLAN FANS... We've Got your Ticket!

All who donate blood between August 1st and August 20th will be eligible to win a pair of coveted tickets to Bob Dylan's upcoming show at the Rock Cats stadium in New Britain on Tuesday, August 29th.

Call 1800-GIVE LIFE
to make an appointment

Only two pairs of tickets to be given away, so call for an appointment today!

*Individuals must be 17 years of age or older,
weight 110 lbs and be in good health*

AQUATIC SCHOOL OFFERS HIGHLY SPECIALIZED TRAINING

In its 21st year, the Chapter's annual Aquatic School was held June 10th through June 18th at Western Connecticut State University. The only Chapter-sponsored aquatic school in the state, its purpose is to help camps and other outdoor recreation facilities meet licensing and health department requirements for training of lifeguards, lifeguard instructors and water safety instructors, as well as teaching skills such as CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and First Aid.

Over the years the Chapter's Aquatic School has moved its location from lake sites to camp sites to accommodate the more than 2,000 students who have benefited from the program. From New Fairfield to Kent where housing and meals were offered, to the present day "commuter" school at the University, students from all over the region train for summer jobs at public and private outdoor facilities, water parks and camps.

This year, 63 students from 25 Connecticut and NY communities received specialized Red Cross training to respond to water-related emergencies this summer.



Board member Richard Fink and wife, Cindy, pose along the rolling hills of Litchfield County after volunteering at the 6th Annual Lake Waramaug Triathlon held June 23 at the Washington Beach Club in Warren. 250 athletes competed in the half-mile swim, 9.1-mile bike ride and 3.3-mile run. More than 20 Red Cross volunteers served as road marshals and lifeguards, and assisted with registration. Proceeds from the event will go directly to the programs and services our chapter provides to the 17 towns we serve.

THERE ARE HEROES AMONG US

Do you know a person who has performed an extraordinary *act of courage* to save someone's life? Or maybe you know someone who has dedicated countless hours to a *special cause*? Help us celebrate these individuals on **March 23, 2007** at our **17th Annual Breakfast Honoring Community Heroes** Nominations are now being accepted. Call the Chapter for details.



Red Cross Volunteer Juliet Ben Ami of Brookfield High School gets ready to watch the 6th Hole at the Inaugural I-95 ESPN Golf Shootout held July 17 at the Candlewood Valley Country Club. The near 100 degree weather didn't deter the golfers who came out to play in this soon to be classic event. Nearly \$5,000 was raised to benefit chapter initiatives.



Red Cross disaster volunteer Niki Collins (left) stops by the Chapter on her way to deliver one of six Hummers donated to Red Cross chapters nationwide by General Motors and the GM Foundation to be used for national disaster relief operations. Staff members (from left to right) Natalie Dos Santos and Debbie Zilinek join disaster team members Jim Duffy and Tom Strang in wishing our chapter was one of the lucky ones to have received the vehicle. General Motors will donate ten more vehicles in 2006.