

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AMERICAN RED CROSS, GREATER CLEVELAND CHAPTER  
RESPONDING TO TWO EMERGENCIES IN NORTHEAST OHIO**

**Cleveland (Oct. 11, 2007)** – On Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007, the American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter responded to two major incidents -- a train derailment which caused the mandatory evacuation of homes and businesses in Painesville as well as a tragic school shooting which occurred at SuccessTech Academy in downtown Cleveland. The Chapter opened a respite center at the Painesville YMCA to provide assistance to residents who were evacuated from their homes because of the derailment and subsequent fire. Additionally, Red Cross volunteers provided food and beverages to those affected by the SuccessTech Academy shooting.

Over the past two days:

- More than 65 Red Cross volunteers and staff from the Greater Cleveland, with assistance from the Chapters in Lorain and Summit counties, have participated in the response effort in Painesville and Cleveland
- The Red Cross provided more than 1,500 meals and snacks to evacuated residents and safety officials
- Nine Red Cross mental health workers were on-hand at counseling centers set up by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to assist students, parents and staff members affected by the shooting

American Red Cross relief is not possible without the help of its many volunteers. While it is difficult to put a dollar amount on time donated by volunteers, according to a study by Independent Sector, a leadership forum for charities, foundations and corporate giving programs, the dollar value of volunteer time is estimated at \$18.77 per hour. With this in mind, the Greater Cleveland Chapter volunteers have donated a significant amount of time between both the Painesville train derailment and the SuccessTech Academy shooting.

Our Red Cross volunteer efforts could not be possible without the help of Greater Clevelanders and the surrounding communities. You can help relieve disasters in Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake Counties by making a financial contribution to the American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter. You can log onto [www.redcross-cleveland.org/donate](http://www.redcross-cleveland.org/donate) or call 216.431.3010. The

American Red Cross honors donor intent – if you wish you may designate your donation to a specific disaster, please do so at the time of your donation. Remember, all disaster assistance is free, made possible by the generosity of the American people.

The Greater Cleveland Chapter helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies by providing shelter, food, clothing and mental health counseling to families affected by disasters in Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties. All disaster relief is free and is made possible by generous donations from the American people. The Chapter also provides CPR, First Aid, Water Safety and preparedness training to thousands of individuals each year. The Greater Cleveland Chapter has been the respected humanitarian disaster response organization in our community for 102 years.

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