

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter Responds to Floods in Lake County**

**CLEVELAND, Ohio – July 28, 2006** – The American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter began responding to the widespread flooding in Lake County early this morning, assisting residents in seven reception centers and working alongside city and county personnel and Lake County EMA.

At 11:00, these reception centers were consolidating and three remained open: Painesville Armory and Concord Community Center will also close and divert people to Harvey High School, 167 W. Washington St. in Painesville, which will have about 100 people when the others arrive. Red Cross will serve food and provide counseling. It is likely the reception center at Harvey High School will transition to a shelter tonight and may run as a shelter for up to five days.

“While floods are not preventable, the Red Cross is prepared to deal with the aftermath following a flood emergency,” said Mary-Alice Frank, CEO of the American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter. “The safety and comfort of the affected families is our first priority. We have our people on-site in Lake County to provide for area residents as the damage assessment process begins.”

The Red Cross staff and volunteers, working in partnership with the Lake County Emergency Management Agency and safety forces, has begun to work on damage assessments throughout the affected areas, and are providing clean up kits, water, food and emotional support.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money by the American people. You can help the victims of the Ohio floods and thousands of other disasters across the country each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those in need. Call 1-800-HELP-NOW or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross Chapter or to the American Red Cross, PO Box 37243, Washington DC, 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). If you need

more information on any issue relating to the Lake County floods, contact the Greater Cleveland Chapter at 216.431.3010.

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