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**AMERICAN RED CROSS, GREATER CLEVELAND CHAPTER  
PROVIDES SHELTERS, COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOLLOWING  
LAKE COUNTY FLOODS**

**LAKE COUNTY, OHIO – JULY 29, 2006** – Staff and volunteers from the American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter are providing shelter, food, water, clean up kits and other assistance today following massive floods which decimated many areas in Lake County on Thursday and Friday. Chapter CEO Mary-Alice Frank expressed sympathy for the families in Lake County dealing with the aftermath of the floods, stating, “Although we respond to disasters on a regular basis, it is never easy to see the human side of the destruction. Our deepest concern is for the families and our staff and volunteers are working to ensure that swift response and emotional support is provided to these people.”

**To date:**

**Two shelters** – Harvey High School in Painesville and Madison Senior Center in Madison are being operated as Red Cross shelters. Daytime populations at these locations soared as many affected by the floods came by for clean up kits, food, beverages, medical referrals and other assistance. Actual overnight sleeping arrangements were provided for 48 people at the Painesville location and 21 at the Madison location on Friday evening.

**Clean Up Kits** – 800 clean up kits along with how-to tips on cleaning flooded dwellings are being distributed to Lake County families. A clean up kit typically holds a mop, bleach, cleaning detergent, rubber gloves and other items necessary to begin the massive task of cleaning a flooded residence.

**Mobile Feeding** – In addition to meals, snacks and beverages being served at the shelter sites, arrangements for mobile feedings have been made in coordination with the fire departments in Painesville, Fairport Harbor, and Madison.

**Health referrals and related matters** – The Red Cross has activated its medical and mental health professional disaster volunteers to meet with families needing these services. As well, Red Cross case workers have begun meeting with families to determine assistance needs.

**Damage Assessments** – In concert with the opening of client cases, trained disaster assessment specialists are on site in the affected neighborhoods. This disaster has been declared a Red Cross Level Three – indicating immediate, short-term Red Cross assistance totals could reach a quarter of a million dollars at early, conservative estimates.

**(more)**

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**Three Local Disasters** – June and July were busy months for the staff and volunteers of the Greater Cleveland Chapter, which covers Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties. In June, the Chapter responded to families left homeless from a 79-unit condominium fire which gutted the facility and took two lives. Three weeks later, severe flooding affected the Southeastern suburbs of Cuyahoga County, which was later declared a federal disaster area. Thursday's rains brought more disaster assistance needs as many Lake County families were evacuated from their homes or had substantial water damage to their dwellings. This disaster assistance, along with the normal fire per day assistance that the Greater Cleveland Chapter provides, results in tens of thousands of dollars spent to meet the needs of the families in the three –county area in the Chapter's jurisdiction. Mary-Alice Frank, CEO, of the Chapter, states, "We cannot thank our friends and supporters enough for their financial contributions. Each day someone in our area suffers from an individual disaster and that alone is a tragedy. Over the last two months these large scale disasters have garnered greater attention, but every disaster is difficult for those affected. It is with the generous support of our community that the Red Cross is there when people need us."

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).

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