



Granite Chapter
2 Maitland Street
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: (603) 225-6697; Toll-Free:
800-464-6692
Fax: 603-228-7171
www.concord-redcross.org

NEWS RELEASE

American Red Cross
Contact: Rebecca Field
Director of Communications
Granite Chapter, American Red Cross
Phone: (603) 225-6697 x209
Cell: (603) 568-3174
Fieldr@redcross-concordNH.org

Granite Chapter Receives Grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation to support NH disaster relief

Concord, NH, Thursday, April 9, 2009 – The Granite Chapter of the American Red Cross announced today that they received a \$58,810 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation, to support Red Cross services in response to local disasters in New Hampshire communities. The Granite Chapter is one of 128 Red Cross chapters awarded funds as part of the Wal-Mart Foundation’s initiative to support disaster response and capacity building projects nationwide.

“These funds will enable the Chapter to purchase disaster equipment and hold training sessions to further improve disaster readiness, especially in remote communities of central and northern New Hampshire,” said Maria White, Regional Executive Director of the American Red Cross in New Hampshire. “We are grateful to have corporate partners like the Wal-Mart Foundation who understand the need to support the work of the Red Cross in disaster preparedness for our communities.”

The Wal-Mart Foundation partnered with the American Red Cross to create a \$5 million Disaster Readiness and Capacity Building Grant Program. This grant benefits especially the remote communities across the country that are served by Red Cross chapters but may become isolated in times of disaster. The chapters receiving these grants have chartered jurisdictions covering less than one million people. The Granite Chapter’s service area covers more than half of New Hampshire with a total population of about 320,000.

This grant will be used to

- 1) purchase disaster equipment, including cots and comfort kits for emergency Red Cross shelters, special food and beverage containers for portable feeding vehicles, a portable generator, two-way radios, and two Red Cross box trailers to transport and store disaster equipment;
- 2) convert an ambulance donated by Rockingham Ambulance Service to be a Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle; and
- 3) train disaster volunteers and host disaster simulation drills in the Lakes Region and North Country.

“At Wal-Mart, helping communities is what we do every day. And when a crisis strikes, that charge becomes an even greater priority,” said Margaret Mckenna, president of the Wal-Mart Foundation. “Our long-standing support of the American Red Cross is evidence of our commitment to supporting

local disaster relief efforts. We are hopeful that the \$5 million we have given to local Red Cross chapters across the country will result in the swift, effective response to disasters, and the development of resources *before* disaster strikes.”

The Wal-Mart Foundation stands ready to help and to work with local leaders, community organizations and elected officials in the instance of a disaster. With a long-standing commitment to supporting local disaster relief efforts, the Wal-Mart Foundation works with the American Red Cross and other organizations in an effort to help its neighbors and communities during times of need.

“We are appreciative to the Wal-Mart Foundation for this much needed grant to enhance our local chapters’ ability to serve their communities,” said Michael Brown, Vice President of Corporate and Foundation Partnerships at the American Red Cross. “Because of their generous support, we will be better positioned to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters in communities across the country.”

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and counsels victims of disasters; provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply; teaches lifesaving skills; and supports military members and their families. All disaster assistance is free to those who need it. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its humanitarian mission. The Granite Chapter provides Red Cross services to communities covering more than half of New Hampshire. For more information, please visit www.concord-redcross.org or call 603-225-6697.

About Philanthropy at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) and the Wal-Mart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Wal-Mart Foundation supports initiatives focused on creating opportunities in education, workforce development, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. In 2007, Walmart, Sam’s Club and the Wal-Mart Foundation gave \$296 million to communities across the United States. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org

PHOTO:



LEGEND: Leslie Thompson (right), Market Manager for Wal-Mart, presented a check to the Maria White, NH Regional Executive Director for the American Red Cross. Behind them is a collection of some of the many disaster supplies that the Chapter has been able to purchase as a result of the grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.

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