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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The American Red Cross of DeKalb County Wishes You Safe and Happy Holidays!**

*December 7, 2010* – Nestled between the holiday catalogues and bills, many DeKalb County residents will find a letter from the American Red Cross. We wanted to let the people of DeKalb County know that we recently switched regions from the Rock River American Red Cross region to the Greater Chicago region and our mailers will reflect the move.

Now with the support of the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago we will be doing most of our future mailings out of Chicago. However, it is important to know that any support we receive from the generous people of DeKalb County will be credited to our DeKalb County chapter.

Money donated to this chapter funds services such as; Disaster relief, assistance to Armed Forces/Veterans, and providing our Health & Safety Programs. The American Red Cross does not receive any financial support from state or federal governments, nor do we receive funding from the national American Red Cross unless there is a large-scale disaster such as a tornado or flood. Michelle Emmett, Executive Director of the chapter says “We rely solely on the kindness of local people, businesses, organizations and foundations to provide our many services and programs; like flood relief, fire response and veteran assistance. Donations are always needed and they are greatly appreciated.”

The winter months can cause a strain financially for the DeKalb County American Red Cross due to the increase in single-family fires. “This time of year, people are using more candles, space heaters, and often decorate their homes with flammable materials like greenery. November through March is our busiest time for responding to fires,” said Dean Richardson, Disaster Services Director for the chapter.

This year is no exception; last year the Red Cross helped/train over 4,500 individuals. Just in the last couple of weeks we responded to and provided comfort or assistance to those affected by a four fires. In every case, the Red Cross assesses needs for basic assistance to help people get back on their feet after a disaster such as fire. The assistance provided can include shelter, food, prescriptions, eyeglasses, clothing and most importantly comfort, in their time of need. This service is provided free of charge and no other agency fills this immediate need in the county.

Your local chapter of the American Red Cross wants to wish the people of DeKalb County a very safe and happy holiday season! “We want everyone to know that the DeKalb County Red Cross will be there when you need us, and we’re thankful for the support that everyone in the County gives to make that promise possible,” said Emmett.

To donate, drop off or send cash or checks to chapter at 2727 Sycamore Rd. Suite 2A, DeKalb IL 60115 or go to our website at [www.dekalbredcross.org](http://www.dekalbredcross.org).

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