



# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Lynn Cook  
614.253.2740 ext. 2477 Cell: 614.332.4929

For Immediate Release

## Twenty-eight Central-Southeast Ohio Volunteers Comforting People on East Coast

**[COLUMBUS] Thursday, November 1, 2012** – The American Red Cross has a huge relief response underway to Sandy, providing people across a number of states with a safe place to stay, food to eat and comfort during this difficult time. Four volunteers left from Columbus this morning, bringing the total to 28 from central and southeast Ohio. These four are driving to White Plains, NY, not far from the devastated shoreline of Manhattan, where they will provide comfort and aid to people living in emergency shelters.

More than 7,000 people spent Wednesday night in 115 Red Cross shelters in 9 states — New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and northern Ohio. Thousands of people have spent the night in hundreds of Red Cross shelters since the storm began its onslaught on the country. The Red Cross has already served more than 100,800 meals and snacks and mobilized more than 2,300 disaster workers and almost 200 emergency vehicles so far and more are being deployed.

“This response to Sandy is just getting started. The storm has left devastation in its wake and we will be helping people for weeks to come,” said Matt Bertram, CEO of the American Red Cross Central-Southeast Ohio Region. “This will be very costly and the Red Cross needs help now. We ask everyone to support us as we help people recover from this massive storm.”

**HOW TO HELP** The response to Sandy is very large and very costly and the Red Cross needs the public’s help now. People can make a financial donation by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Contributions may also be sent to your [local Red Cross chapter](#) or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

**PLEASE GIVE BLOOD** The storm has also caused the cancellation of hundreds of Red Cross blood drives, resulting in a loss of as many as 11,000 blood products. “We were spared the worst of the storm and are in a position to help,” Bertram said. “I encourage anyone who can, to [schedule a blood donation now](#).”

To schedule a donation time or get more information about giving blood, people can visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). To give blood, someone must be at least 17 years of age, meet weight and height requirements and be in general good health. Donors should bring their Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID with them. Some states allow 16-year-olds to give with parental consent.

### **About the American Red Cross:**

*The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.*

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