

## Your Local Red Cross Response to Area Storms

**Rome (GA) May 31, 2011** ~ When disaster strikes, North Georgians can rely on their American Red Cross Northwest Georgia Chapter and our corps of trained volunteers to provide help and hope to neighbors in need.

Well before devastating tornadoes raked through northwest Georgia in April, Red Cross volunteers in communities statewide prepared to respond. Local Disaster Action Teams were among the first to shelter, feed and comfort their neighbors in the aftermath of the storms, which claimed lives and heavily damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes in the area.

In the weeks following the historic tornadoes, Red Cross disaster relief focused first on meeting the immediate emergency needs of impacted families, and then on helping them begin the recovery process. Red Cross workers from Georgia and other states – primarily volunteers – helped here with the care and feeding of disaster survivors, with the bulk distribution of clean-up and recovery supplies, and with individual client casework.

We partnered, not only with local, state and federal governments, but also with our communities, with our private sector and with local nonprofit and faith-based agencies to bring help and hope to families.

According to Jeffrey Putnam, Executive Director of the American Red Cross Northwest Georgia Chapter, Red Cross services provided to chapter counties affected by the storms included:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bartow               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3,615 Meals</li> <li>- 4,360 Snacks</li> <li>- 107 Outreach Contacts</li> <li>- 14 Health Services Contacts</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>- Catoosa               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 268 Shelter Registrations</li> <li>- 261 Overnight Stays</li> <li>- 32 Comfort Kits</li> <li>- 13,261 Meals</li> <li>- 15,688 Snacks</li> <li>- 4,698 Bulk Items</li> <li>- 101 Outreach Contacts</li> <li>- 128 Health Services Contacts</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>- Dade               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 18 Shelter Registrations</li> <li>- 12 Overnight Stays</li> <li>- 419 Comfort Kits</li> <li>- 16,601 Meals</li> <li>- 14,180 Snacks</li> <li>- 3,209 Bulk Items</li> <li>- 19 Outreach Contacts</li> <li>- 111 Health Services Contacts</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Floyd               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 Shelter Registrations</li> <li>- 2 Overnight Stays</li> <li>- 960 Meals</li> <li>- 1,000 Snacks</li> <li>- 26 Outreach Contacts</li> <li>- 159 Health Services Contacts</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>- Polk               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 502 Meals</li> <li>- 375 Snacks</li> <li>- 8 Outreach Contacts</li> <li>- 2 Health Services Contacts</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>- Walker               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 12 Shelter Registrations</li> <li>- 12 Overnight Stays</li> <li>- *</li> <li>- *</li> <li>- 12 Bulk Items</li> <li>- 51 Outreach Contacts</li> <li>- 12 Health Services Contacts</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>* Meal count is included in Dade County numbers due to proximity for Emergency Response Vehicles</i></p> |
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Also, through the generosity of financial donors, partnerships and volunteers who make our work possible, we provided:

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- **Sheltering and Feeding**, which included safe havens for the displaced in hard-hit communities, food prepared by partners at fixed locations, and hot meals and snacks delivered through Red Cross mobile outreach;
- **Communication Resources** comprised of a toll-free Call Center for information on accessing Red Cross services in each community, referrals for partner services, and help reconnecting with loved ones;
- **Emergency Assistance** that included door-to-door casework to determine needs, identification of resources and plans for recovery, and the distribution of supplies such as clean-up and personal items; and,
- **Health and Emotional Support** by trained professionals who made condolence visits to the bereaved, provided emotional support and coping skills, and identified health needs to replace medications, eyeglasses and medical equipment.

In the long months ahead, your American Red Cross Northwest Georgia Chapter will continue to work closely with emergency partners to help disaster-stricken families get back on their feet and will support struggling communities in their recovery. While no one organization can meet the widespread needs created by the April tornadoes, working together, and through the generous support of donors and volunteers, a compassionate Georgia is making a difference for disaster survivors.

You can be a part of the local Red Cross disaster relief and recovery as a volunteer or as a financial contributor – simply log onto <http://www.nwgarecross.org/> for more information.

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