



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Neil D. Breslin

## **March is American Red Cross Month: Senator Breslin Urges Humanitarianism & Community Involvement**

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March 21, 2011

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**(Albany, NY)**-Senator Neil D. Breslin (D-Delmar) is reminding New Yorkers that March is American Red Cross Month, and encouraging all New Yorkers to help their communities and not-for-profits like the Red Cross. American Red Cross Month is a longstanding tradition marking the important work of the organization which has provided critical assistance during people's time of need for more than 125 years.

Senator Breslin said "It is critically important to spread the message of humanitarianism and community involvement especially during this great time of need for those displaced by the tsunami and subsequent earthquake in Japan. The

Red Cross is the cornerstone humanitarian organization of our country and, even New Yorkers not affiliated with the organization are encouraged to help our neighbors. Every year thousands of residents' lives are touched by the aid its employees and volunteers provide."

Founded by Clara Barton, who served wounded soldiers in the Civil War, the American Red Cross is part of the world's largest humanitarian network – 97 million volunteers helping in 186 countries. The organization provides humanitarian aid nationally and internationally, supports the armed forces and their families, and acts as the nation's primary blood bank. Everyday tens of thousands of Americans are aided by the Red Cross.

The Senator concluded, "Red Cross Month is a time to acknowledge the giving and humanitarian spirit that exists throughout the Red Cross in the form of volunteers, donors, partners and employees. To give thanks and honor to the members of the Red Cross, I encourage New Yorkers to take the time this month to give back to an organization that gives us so much."

There are many ways to contribute to your local Red Cross, including volunteering, giving donations, taking a CPR class, or giving blood. To learn more about the Red Cross, donate, or find your local chapter, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

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