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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RED CROSS ASSISTS RESIDENTS
AFFECTED BY TWO FIRES
ON PACIFIC STREET IN BROOKLYN

Friday, February 24, 2006 ... American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) responded this morning to two fires that broke out within a block and a half of each other in the Prospect Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn. The first was a deadly three-alarm blaze at a four-story apartment building, 1033 Pacific Street. Tragically, four people, including two children, died.

Eight ARC/GNY volunteers and staff members rushed to the scene, along with a Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV), to support first responders and come to the aid of 5 families consisting of 11 adults and 5 children. Red Cross provided food, hot beverages, blankets and mental health counseling as well as temporary housing for two of the families. Three other families from an adjacent building, whose apartments sustained water and smoke damage, received fire clean-up kits. Red Cross provided four families affected by this fire with emergency housing.

A second, 1-alarm blaze broke out at 1162 Pacific Street, a four-story building just down the street, and no injuries were reported. Four Red Cross staff members came to the aid of 3 families consisting of 17 adults and 9 children, providing them with immediate emergency help including temporary housing. Red Cross mental health service personnel counseled those affected at the scene.

Now in its 100th year, the American Red Cross in Greater New York helps people in New York City and Orange, Putnam, Rockland & Sullivan Counties avoid, prepare for and respond to emergencies. ARC/GNY provides immediate aid to those affected by more than 3,000 emergencies a year – from fires and water main breaks, to building collapses and blackouts. The Red Cross also helps New Yorkers stay prepared for emergencies by offering hundreds of health and safety courses on such subjects as First Aid, Disaster Preparedness, Swim Safety and Adult/Child CPR throughout the region. For more information, call 1-877 RED-CROSS or visit www.nyredcross.org.

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