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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN RED CROSS ASSISTS RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY 5-ALARM BROOKLYN FIRE

New York, New York - April 27, 2006 - Twenty-three American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) staff members and volunteers, along with a Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV), rushed to the scene of a 5-alarm fire that ripped through a Brooklyn apartment building at 1245 Eastern Parkway at about 2:45 am on Saturday, April 22.

Nearly 200 firefighters fought the blaze, which left dozens of families homeless. Red Cross responders assisted 57 families (119 adults and 36 children) affected by the fire with food, hot beverages, blankets and mental health counseling at the scene. They also aided first responders including firefighters and police with food and beverages, and provided 38 families (81 adults and 20 children) displaced by the fire with temporary housing.

Now in its 100th year, the American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) helps people in New York City and Orange, Putnam, Rockland and 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 (1-877-733-2767), or visit www.nyredcross.org.

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