

**AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GREATER NEW YORK
PRESENTS LIFE SAVING AWARD TO STATEN ISLAND RESIDENT
DURING NATIONAL CPR/AED AWARENESS WEEK**

**ALSO PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT HUMANITARIAN SERVICES
THAT ASSIST BOROUGH RESIDENTS DURING EMERGENCIES**

*Annual Leadership Ceremony Supported By
New York Container Terminal And Richmond County Savings Bank*

New York – June 3, 2008 – To commemorate the first National CPR/AED (automated external defibrillator) Awareness Week (June 1-7), the American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) – Staten Island will hold its annual leadership ceremony on June 5 to present the National Red Cross Life Saving Award to Luanne Sorrentino. In 2005, Ms. Sorrentino, who operates the St. George Theatre, saved the life of a man attending his granddaughter's recital at the theater when she quickly and confidently responded to the emergency and provided CPR.

At the leadership ceremony, ARC/GNY – Staten Island also will present an overview of the various humanitarian services and programs it provides for residents when it responds to fires, flooding and other disasters in the borough. The American Red Cross in Greater New York is a key humanitarian partner and a vital participant in New York's plans and programs to help the nine million people in New York City and Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan counties prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Sponsored by the New York Container Terminal and the Richmond County Savings Bank, the leadership ceremony will be held at the Richmond County Country Club (135 Flagg Place), 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Melissa Robson, Miss Staten Island, will sing the national anthem. ARC/GNY Board Chair John Atkins of New York Container Terminal will host the event.

On June 16, 2005, Ms. Sorrentino, who is trained in American Red Cross CPR for professional rescuers, helped save the life of 80-year-old Joe Fuller. Mr. Fuller collapsed while attending his granddaughter's dance recital at the St. George Theater. Following American Red Cross instructions, Ms. Sorrentino designated someone to call 9-1-1 while she checked Mr. Fuller for signs of life. Finding none, she began CPR and continued providing breaths and compressions until EMS arrived.

For this selfless and humane action in saving a life, Ms. Sorrentino will receive the American Red Cross Certificate of Merit. The certificate of merit is the highest award presented by the organization to acknowledge an individual or team of individuals who save or sustain a life by using skills and knowledge learned in an American Red Cross

Health and Safety Service courses. The award will be presented by Judge John Furco, who saved the life of a woman by administering CPR in March 2005.

The objective of National CPR and AED Awareness Week is to encourage states, cities and towns to establish organized programs to provide training and increase public access to AEDs. More than 300,000 people each year suffer from sudden cardiac arrest. To increase the chances of survival, at least one person in each household should be trained in CPR and the use of an AED. Organizations and companies, depending on size, should have many, if not all, employees and volunteers trained. In less time than you think, American Red Cross training will provide the vital knowledge and skills for everyone to respond to a life-threatening situation with confidence.

ARC/GNY provides immediate aid to more than 100,000 people affected by 3,000 emergencies a year, including fires, floods, building collapses and power outages. The chapter also helps New York residents and businesses prepare for emergencies by offering hundreds of courses in first aid, CPR and aquatics and emergency preparedness training programs and resources. ARC/GNY is not a governmental organization and relies on individual and corporate gifts, special events and grants from foundations and local, state and federal government to fund its essential programs and services. For more information about volunteering, donating and training, call 1-877-RED CROSS (1-877-733-2767), or visit www.nyredcross.org.

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