



Contact: Annie Lazar
212-875-2133 (w)
917-279-4119 (c)
lazara@arcgny.org

DRAFT NOT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RED CROSS PROVIDES EMERGENCY SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE
NIGHT AT SCENE OF WASHINGTON HEIGHTS WALL COLLAPSE**

Staff & Volunteers Provide Mental Health Counseling, Temporary Shelter, Food and Logistical Support

New York, NY, May 13, 2005... The American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC/GNY) staff and volunteers provided emergency support including mental health counseling, temporary shelter, hot meals and logistical support to residents affected by the collapse of the retaining wall at West 181st Street and Riverside Drive in Manhattan on Thursday afternoon.

The Red Cross Disaster Action Team (DAT) arrived immediately with Emergency Response Vehicles (ERV) and quickly provided emergency assistance on-site where 77 affected individuals were registered for Red Cross assistance. A Reception Center was set up at PS 187 (349 Cabrini Boulevard) where clients were served hot meals and snacks. Three families were housed overnight.

Quick Facts:

- 77 people were registered for Red Cross services at the scene.
- 26 Red Cross disaster trained workers and volunteers including, damage assessment experts and family caseworkers provided support to those affected.
- 3 adults were placed in temporary housing.

Be Prepared... Families and individuals can learn simple safety steps to take before a disaster strikes by attending a FREE Red Cross *Together We Prepare* class. The 60-minute presentation teaches participants how to create an emergency communications plan, how to assemble a disaster supplies kit and what to do if disaster strikes. The class begins at 6:15 p.m. every Thursday at 150 Amsterdam Avenue (between 66th and 67th Streets). To register for services, call 1-877-REDCROSS or visit www.nyredcross.org.

The American Red Cross, now in its Centennial Year, helps people avoid, prepare for and respond to emergencies. The American Red Cross in Greater New York responds to an average of eight emergencies a day such as fires, blackouts, and water main breaks and building collapses. The Red Cross also offers a variety of health and safety courses on such subjects as First Aid and CPR. To attend a safety course, call 1-800-514-5103 or visit www.nyredcross.org. For general inquiries, call 1-877-REDCROSS.

###