

**NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF THE BUDGET
TOWN HALL HEARINGS
NOVEMBER 28, 2007**

**AMERICAN RED CROSS
CLARA BARTON CHAPTER #1
SANDY SHAW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

My name is Sandy Shaw, and I am the Executive Director of the American Red Cross Clara Barton Chapter #1.

The Clara Barton Chapter is one of 36 chapters in NYS that help New Yorkers prepare for disasters and provides assistance when disasters strike. The American Red Cross in New York State is requesting \$20 million in the 2008-09 State budget for the programs and services we provide for all New Yorkers.

Our Chapter has a rich history as the first chapter of the American Red Cross, started by Clara Barton while she was staying in Dansville, NY in 1881.

We are a small, but fully operating, chapter. This last fiscal year we responded to 7 disasters, assisted with 10 Armed Forces calls, held 34 blood drives, processed 6 utility

assistance cases, loaned out 147 pieces of health equipment and trained 982 area residents in CPR and First Aid.

Last year, in NYS, the Red Cross responded to more than 5,000 disasters, many of them residential fires. In this six county region, the local Red Cross chapters supported over 440 families with disaster services.

Through the support of NYS, the Red Cross has helped victims of disaster get back on their feet and find comfort in their hour of need.

The American Red Cross is confident that funding for our proposal will significantly increase our ability to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of New York State.

The American Red Cross and the State of New York have developed a strong partnership over the years, and this partnership has resulted in a safer New York. We look forward to continuing this partnership and working

effectively to prepare, prevent and respond to future disasters in New York.

On behalf of the Red Cross and the people we serve across NYS, I want to thank you in advance for your consideration.

Thank you,

Sandy Shaw

Executive Director