



The American Red Cross commends the Community Health Centers that responded with lifesaving medical care, to the urgent needs of those affected by Hurricane Katrina. The contributions of Community Health Centers to comprehensive disaster relief are apparent – and the Red Cross is proud to partner with NACHC to help ensure improved disaster response in the future. Already, NACHC is working to help improve access to Red Cross disaster services in underserved communities by recruiting potential attendees for Red Cross-sponsored Disaster and Emergency Response Trainings. These trainings aim to increase the number of volunteers, particularly those who are bilingual and culturally-sensitive, who are ready to respond to national disasters and local community emergencies.

As an organization that focuses on prevention and preparedness education, not only for large-scale disasters, but for common emergencies such as house fires, the Red Cross appreciates the importance of ongoing attention to health and safety. The Red Cross sees NACHC as a natural match for improving health and safety services in underserved communities, which are typically at higher risk than general populations for residential fires, child drowning and lack of proper protection during hurricanes and other disasters. And, like the network of health centers that NACHC represents, the Red Cross is committed to helping all people in need, regardless of legal status or income. For all of these reasons, the American Red Cross is proud to support National Health Center Week and encourages families to learn more about safer, healthier living.

The American Red Cross looks forward to a continued collaboration with Community Health Centers that, like the Red Cross, provide critical support to communities around the nation in times of disaster and all year round.

