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2006 American Red Cross Hero Awards *Eleven Heroes to be Honored*

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- September 29, 2006 -- Eleven extraordinary individuals from our community will be honored as the 2006 American Red Cross Heroes at a luncheon on Friday, November 3 at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel.

Chosen from more than 80 nominations, these Heroes have shown courage, compassion and character and have gone to great measures to save a life or to improve the lives of others. This biennial event serves as an important fundraiser so the Greater Cleveland Chapter can continue to help people prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters in Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties.

The Greater Cleveland Chapter will honor the Rev. Dr. Otis and Edwina Moss with the 2006 Community Leader Award. The award will be presented by Senator George Voinovich, the first recipient of this honor. The Mosses are highly regarded in Greater Cleveland and beyond for their valued leadership to a number of institutions including The Cleveland Foundation, North Coast Community Homes, the American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter and Morehouse College.

The 2006 Heroes are:

Community Hero

Michael Goldberg

Pepper Pike resident

On his way to trial at the Cuyahoga County Courthouse, Attorney Michael Goldberg stopped when he saw a burning vehicle on Interstate 90. He quickly pulled the passengers out of the car and saved their lives.

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Education Hero

Verna Stallings

Cleveland resident

For more than 20 years, Verna Stallings has trained more than 2,000 instructors in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education. Also an instructor for National American Red Cross, she has provided education to residents of Cincinnati, Mahoning, Columbus, and Lorain in addition to the Greater Cleveland area.

Fire & Rescue

Bill and Kendal Lipke

Cleveland residents

While on vacation in Michigan, Bill Lipke and his son, Kendal, saw an 11-year-old boy drowning in Sable River. Kendal jumped in to grab the boy and held on as others pulled them out of the water. Bill then gave the boy CPR.

Healthcare

Donna Kelly

Cleveland resident

Donna Kelly, a registered nurse, provides care to Cleveland's most vulnerable residents - individuals living on the streets, under bridges, over heating grates and in downtown doorways.

Military

Victor Lewis

Cleveland resident

During a raid to locate an enemy weapon cache in Iraq, Victor Lewis put his own life in danger by running 40 meters through machine-gun fire to rescue two wounded Marines.

Older Adult

Thomas Seaman

Canton resident

Thomas Seaman is a 76-year-old man who flies patients and human organs for transplant wherever they need to go for medical treatment.

Public Safety

Bryan Molnar

North Royalton resident

Lakewood police officer, Bryan Molnar, stopped three people attempting to rob a gas station.

Red Cross

Bill Baker

Madison resident

Bill Baker taught disaster response classes to people who were deployed to hurricane-stricken areas. He serves on the Service Area Office Initial Disaster Response team.

Volunteer

Michael DePauw

Strongsville resident

Michael DePauw is a NASA employee who joined FEMA to help residents in areas swept by catastrophe during Hurricane Katrina.

Youth

Cara Amato

Avon Lake resident

Cara Amato created an organization through her middle school that makes quilts for babies in need - she also taught a small group of students, parents and teachers how to sew quilts.

For information on sponsorships or tickets, call 216.431.3060 or visit www.redcross-cleveland.org.

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