

# Red Cross responds to Delaware River flood victims



Photo courtesy of American Red Cross of Central New Jersey  
 Volunteer Pam Weiss of the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey provides supplies for victims of the April Delaware River floods.

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 Special to The Times

As heavy rains poured down this past April, the Emergency Services staff of the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey was keeping a close eye on the Delaware River. When it appeared the river might spill its banks, the staff began to prepare for the worst.

Volunteers and staff had already been alerted and polled for their ability to respond. Response plans were coordinated, and the local chapter of the Red Cross was in constant communication with city and state emergency officials.

As the communities surrounding the river were evacuated, Red Cross shelters were opened in nearby areas that were safe from the flood waters. The shelters were staffed with Red Cross volunteers who provided meals to those waiting out the situation.

When the waters receded, 60 local Red Cross volunteers and 20 chapter staff members fanned out across the affected



areas, using Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) and other Red Cross vehicles to provide food, water, cleanup kits and emotional support to residents returning to their damaged homes and businesses.

More than 12,400 meals and snacks were provided to flood victims and more than 1,000 cleanup kits were distributed.

Volunteers also met with families to help determine their immediate needs, and provided information about agencies that were available for long-term needs. The volunteers and staff worked long hours to provide the assistance needed.

This is just one example of how the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey responds to local emergencies. Red Cross disaster assistance is free and made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from members of the community.

Funds from this year's Times Holiday Appeal will be used to support the services and programs of the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey.

The Times deducts no overhead expenses. All money goes directly to the designated nonprofit agency.

To make a donation in support of the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey, please make your check payable to The Holiday Appeal and mail or hand deliver it to: 500 Perry St., Box 84 Trenton, N.J. 08605. All gifts will be acknowledged and anonymity, if requested, will be granted.

For more information about the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey, visit the Web site at [njredcross.org](http://njredcross.org) or call (609) 951-8550.