



March 31, 2009

The Office of U.S. Senator Richard G. Lugar
306 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

The American Red Cross is chartered by the U.S. Congress to provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies, such as ice storms, fires, floods, and man-made disasters. The Red Cross supports government efforts at the local, state and federal levels and is specifically designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as a support agency for the mass care functions of the National Response Framework.

The American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana Chapter manages its operations from the main office facility in Fort Wayne, which was built in 1951 when services were only provided to Allen County. However, since then the Chapter has expanded its service area and now serves a population of more than 635,000 people across a 3,700 square mile area including the following counties: Allen, DeKalb, Miami, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley Counties.

To effectively respond to this rapid expansion, feasibility studies have shown that the Chapter requires a minimum of 75% more space to operate effectively. Additionally, the Chapter does not currently have an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), including a building generator, which is critical to reliable emergency response. To address this need, a new wing off will be built with an EOC, providing an additional 6,000 square feet to improve the capacity of the organization to provide services, including disaster relief and community preparedness training.

Although \$1,525,000 has already been raised so far, the Chapter seeks \$200,000 in funding for the **American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana - Capital Expansion Initiative** in FY2010. The entity to receive funding for this project is the American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana to be used for building a new wing off of the existing Red Cross facility with an EOC to improve the capacity of the organization to provide services, including disaster relief and community preparedness training. As a result, the Chapter will be able to better collaborate with other First Responders during emergency response operations to help save lives, protect the Greater Fort Wayne area, Indiana, and the nation.

Please feel free to contact our Regional Grant Manager Tonia Brown at (260) 484-9336 x241 or by email at BrownTon@usa.redcross.org, if you have any other questions about this initiative.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ostrum". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kay Ostrum
Executive Director

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DeKalb County: (260) 925-4566 | Miami County: (765) 473-4461 | Noble County: (260) 636-6691
Steuben County: (260) 495-2612 | Wabash County: (260) 563-2658 | Wells County: (260) 824-1095
Whitley County: (260) 248-8132 | Williams County: (419) 636-3449

<http://northeastIN.redcross.org>

