
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Community Foundation Awards Emergency Grant to the American Red Cross

The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne has recently awarded the local American Red Cross a \$10,000 emergency grant to address disaster needs of the community sustained during the recent ice storm and power outages. “Our disaster relief funding became dangerously low,” said R. Kay Ostrum, executive director of the American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana. Two facilities were established in Allen County (and an additional three sites in northeast Indiana) to house victims who lost power and who had no heat in their homes. Four hundred forty-five individuals were accommodated, 3397 meals and 4515 snacks served, utilizing 218 volunteers over nine days. Cots were provided along with blankets, food, and bathroom facilities. Mental health counseling and healthcare professionals were also available.

David Bennett, executive director of the Community Foundation stated, “The Community Foundation is an important part of this community and we felt that it was the right thing to do. Through the generosity of our donors, we were able to make this grant in a very timely manner. Our board is pleased to be able to support the unexpected needs of our community. This is why endowments funds are important. They are the savings accounts for that unexpected rainy days.”

Established in 1956, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne is a public, charitable foundation serving Allen County for more than fifty years. The Community Foundation had assets of \$101 million at December 31, 2007, and awarded more than \$5.4 million in charitable grants and scholarships in that year.