

**PRESS RELEASE**

March 21, 2016

**FREEHOLDERS HONOR THE NORTHERN NEW JERSEY AMERICAN RED CROSS  
AND PROCLAIMED MARCH 2016  
AS AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH IN ESSEX COUNTY**



Community Chapter Executive Jocelyn Gilman (left) accepts the Board's commendation presented and sponsored by Freeholder Leonard Luciano (right) from West Caldwell. PHOTO BY: Glen Frieson.

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, March 16, 2016, meeting at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the Northern New Jersey American Red Cross and Proclaimed March 2016 as American Red Cross Month in Essex County. The Board's commendation was sponsored and presented to the Northern New Jersey American Red Cross' Community Chapter Executive Jocelyn Gilman, by Freeholder Leonard M. Luciano of West Caldwell.

Freeholder Luciano opened the program by saying he is always honored to recognize deserving citizens who are hard at work. "I believe it is important to remember an organization who gives tirelessly on behalf of all of its constituents and each year it is my goal to make sure this recognition takes place."; he said. Furthermore, sharing highlights from the commendation, he noted, "Here in Essex County, we remember and applaud our heroes who help people in need and work tirelessly to assist their neighbors when they need a helping hand and dedicate the month of March to all those who support the American Red Cross's mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies." He praised them for being a trusted resource that provides refuge, relief and reliability regardless of who is in need.

The American Red Cross of Northern New Jersey is located in Fairfield, New Jersey, and continues its legacy by serving a population of 3 million people in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Sussex Counties. It works tirelessly through employees and volunteers to help when disaster strikes. It provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families, and provides training in CPR, aquatics safety, and first aid. Every eight minutes, the American Red Cross responds to a community disaster, providing shelter, food, emotional support and other necessities to those affected. It collects 40

percent of the nation’s blood supply; and through its Restoring Family Links program, connects family members separated by crisis, conflict, or migration.



Community Chapter Executive Jocelyn Gilman (center left) and Freeholder Leonard Luciano (center right) are joined by Northern New Jersey American Red Cross Board Member Dr. Michael Festa (far left) and volunteer Maria Araujo who attended the special presentation. PHOTO BY: Glen Frieson.

Community Chapter Executive Jocelyn Gilman accepted the Board’s commendation on behalf of the American Red Cross of Northern New Jersey. In her acceptance comments, she thanked Freeholder Luciano and the Freeholder Board for the recognition. Ms. Gilman noted that each year the American Red Cross responds to over 70,000 disasters nationally. This year, the Northern New Jersey chapter is leading the way as one of the pioneers of a nationwide door-to-door Home Fire Campaign. The campaign’s goal is to reduce injuries and deaths due to fires by 20% and will highlight on three areas: 1) Fire Alarms – installing alarms where they don’t exist and encouraging consumers to change their batteries twice a year, using daylight savings time as a reminder; 2) Prevention Tips – highlighting comprehensive household advice available on the website; and 3) Family Evacuation Plan – developing a plan of escape, securing at least two ways out of the house, and establishing a meeting place once exited. Ms. Gilman noted the Red Cross’s purpose, “To prepare for, respond to, and to recover from a disaster”. The American Red Cross is volunteer driven and they make-up approximately 90% of its staff. Ms. Gilman saluted their volunteers or “Everyday Heroes” as she called them, and thanked everyone for their support. Ms. Gilman was joined by Board Member Dr. Michael Festa and volunteer Maria Araujo.

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