



American Red Cross

American Red Cross of Fond du Lac
272 N Main Street
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MILITARY FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM PACKERS DONATION

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The Green Bay Packers and American Family Insurance announced several non-profit organizations received funds from their charity cap campaign. All 16 American Red Cross chapters across the state earned funding to support the Services to Armed Forces (SAF) program.

More than 68,000 stone-washed caps were sold and \$5.00 from each cap was set-aside for groups which provide military health care needs, family support and assistance. The SAF primary mission is to relay emergency messages between service members and their families, offering a vital link for soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines with a family member in crisis. Messages frequently involve serious illnesses and deaths or news about the birth of a child.

In military deployment situations, the Red Cross offers family members the assurance and reliability that an urgent message is received by loved ones anywhere in the world. Red Cross emergency messages have often resulted in a service member reaching the hospital bed of a dying relative. During the news conference, Steve Maricque, Executive Director of the Lakeland, WI Chapter relayed just one of the many emotional letters they receive annually. *"Because of the Red Cross, my son was able to get home in time to pay last respects to his grandfather and attend the funeral. The Red Cross got him on a full flight, had assisted him in making sure he made his connecting flights. I (we) thank you from the bottom of my (our) hearts".*

In addition to emergency messaging, the Red Cross utilizes a vast network of resources. In collaboration with military aid societies, financial assistance during a family crisis, such as emergency travel expenses, burial costs or funds to meet urgent health, welfare or social needs are provided to military families. The SAF program also reaches out to local military members and their families via our "Get to Know Us Before You Need us Program".

During fiscal year 2006, the Red Cross handled nearly 650,000 emergency communications services for military families worldwide. Financial assistance exceeding \$5.4 million was provided to more than 6,300 uniformed service members, their families and veterans in partnership with the Military Aid Societies.

During 2007, Wisconsin Red Cross chapters transmitted nearly 5,000 messages for military families in crisis and can provide financial assistance of up-to \$2,000 when the need occurs. "Because Red Cross services are provided at no charge and by each chapter receiving \$10,000, these funds will go a long way to support our military families," concluded Maricque.

The Fond du Lac Red Cross Chapter is grateful to receive their portion of the donation, as they have assisted many families maintain communication during family emergencies this year.

Packers President/CEO Mark Murphy stated "Our service men and women make great sacrifices for what they do and we're pleased to contribute to the wonderful actions of these groups that support them. We are grateful for the support of Packer fans through their purchases of the caps."

The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, almost a million volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of almost 75,000 disasters, taught lifesaving skills to millions and help U. S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost 4 million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest suppliers of blood and blood products in the United States. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money and blood to do its work. For more information Red Cross programs and services, visit www.redcross.org