

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, This year during the month of March we formally recognize the Tri-County Red Cross and its essential humanitarian role in the Borough of Watchung. We honor the role of the Red Cross contribution to making the Borough of Watchung a better place. Every day, Red Cross volunteers and employees carry out the mission by providing essential services to people in the communities with the help of generous donors in the Borough of Watchung; and

WHEREAS, since its incorporation in 1926, the Borough of Watchung residents have relied on the expertise of the American Red Cross in disaster relief. Each year the Tri-County Red Cross responds to estimated 65 disasters in and near Watchung, including house or apartment fires, hurricanes, and other natural and human caused disasters. The Tri-County Red Cross assisted more than 25,000 people in our area with shelter, food, clothing, disaster training, medical transportation and other life-saving services; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-County Red Cross in the Borough of Watchung makes every effort to save lives long before tragedy strikes by helping individuals and entire communities learn to prepare for disasters. It prepares people to save lives through first aid and CPR training, water safety, and use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to save victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Over the past year, nearly 10,000 people have enrolled in Health and Safety Courses with the Tri-County Red Cross. The Tri-County Red Cross also provides free disaster preparedness and response training to any resident or organization of Watchung who is interested in learning how to help their neighbors in times of need; and

WHEREAS, under its charter, the American Red Cross is entrusted with providing volunteer aid in time of war to the sick and wounded of the armed forces. Staff members deploy with our Armed Forces to provide emergency communications and a caring presence to service men and women separated from their families. The Tri-County Red Cross has sent more than 2,500 emergency messages to active duty personnel and their families, and also reaches out to the members of the National Guard and Reserves and their families who reside in nearly every community they serve in Somerset, Middlesex, and Union Counties; and

WHEREAS, without the help of the Borough of Watchung volunteers, the Tri-County Red Cross would be unable to fulfill the humanitarian mission that is the cornerstone of the organization. We are grateful for the tireless work of the volunteers and employees of the Tri-County Red Cross in Watchung and during this month, we pay tribute to this remarkable organization and all those who have answered the call to serve a greater cause and offered support and healing in times of need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert S. Ellis, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the law of Watchung, do hereby proclaim March 2009 as

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

and encourage all Americans to support this organization's noble humanitarian mission, especially during this extraordinary time for our country.

Date: February 26, 2009

Albert S. Ellis, Mayor