



**American
Red Cross**

Twin Cities Area Chapter

Contact: Carrie Carlson
Communications & Marketing Director
W: (612) 872-3240
C: (612) 743-5555
ccarlson@redcrosstc.org

News Release

HASTINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED RED CROSS HEROES AWARD “FIREFIGHTER READY” AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED APRIL 21ST

Minneapolis/St. Paul (March 27, 2009) – Chief Mike Schutt and the Hastings Fire Department are being honored as “Firefighter” heroes by the Twin Cities Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Hastings Fire Department will receive this award on April 21, 2009 at the second annual Red Cross Heroes Breakfast.

On December 23, 2008 the Hastings Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 407 Whispering Lane. Upon the Fire Departments arrival, Hastings Police and Dakota County Sherriff officers were already working on evacuating residents from each of the 6 townhome units. Heavy fire was visible and the fire had already spread from the first and second levels into the attic.

According to their Heroes nomination the Hastings Fire Department did an excellent job of containing the fire to just three of the six townhome units. Twenty-two people live in these six units and all of the occupants made it out safely. A few days after the fire, residents of the three units unaffected by the fire were able to be return home.

The Firefighter Ready award is presented to a professional firefighter who, in the performance of his or her job, acted above and beyond the call of duty. This is one of eight “Ready” Award categories that will be given to qualified heroes during the second annual American Red Cross Heroes Breakfast on April 21.

The Heroes Breakfast was established to raise awareness of citizens in the Twin Cities area whose actions support the mission of the Red Cross. Each hero was nominated by a member of the community and selected by the 2009 Heroes Breakfast Nomination Committee. The Heroes Breakfast is the premier fundraising event for the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Red Cross and will honor eight local heroes in front of hundreds of guests.

The 2009 Heroes Breakfast is Tuesday, April 21st. The event will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m at The Depot (225 Third Avenue South) in Downtown Minneapolis. To join in the celebration of honoring these local heroes, you can purchase tickets for \$50/person or \$1000 to sponsor a table of 10. All proceeds will go to the Ameican Red Cross Twin Cities Chapter. To register for the event, contact Hilary Smith at 612-252-1051 or at hsmith@redcrosstc.org

The Twin Cities Red Cross would like to thank our sponsors State Farm Insurance, Ecolab, Future Systems Consulting, Medica Foundation, St. Jude Medical Foundation, Target, West – Thomson Reuters and Xcel Energy for their support and partnership of the 2009 Heroes Breakfast.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross provides relief to victims of disasters, collects and distributes nearly half of the nation’s blood supply, teaches lifesaving skills, and supports military members and families. The American Red Cross, a charity and not a government agency, depends on voluntary contributions of time, money and blood to perform its humanitarian mission.

###