

Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame

Archive Project

Inception to Induction

American Red Cross, Nassau County Chapter

Year of Founding: 1917

Issue Addressed: Emergency disaster

Induction Category & Year: Health, 2006

Founders: Mr. & Mrs. Henry P. Davison

Personal Quote from Founder Henry P. Davison: "Our task involves not merely the effort to relieve human suffering but to prevent it. Red Cross concerns itself not with the suffering of one people, but the welfare of our fellow beings throughout the world. The Red Cross is not building for a day but for all time."

History: The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization founded by Clara Barton in 1881. It is an organization for war and disaster relief whose main goal is to reduce and prevent suffering after a traumatic event. It is led by volunteers who dedicate their time to people in need. It is a worldwide organization with many chapters, including the Nassau County chapter, which was started by Henry P. Davison.

Under Henry Davison, the Red Cross Chapter grew by leaps and bounds due to his dedication and fervor. He felt it was necessary to expand to other countries and when the end of the World War I was near, Davison left much of the direction of Red Cross affairs to others in order to concentrate on the formation of a worldwide organization of Red Cross societies. He felt strongly about the good will and sympathy created by the Red Cross and he was determined to keep it going strong.

In its first two years, the Nassau County chapter directed its activities almost exclusively to assistance in affected areas related to war at Camp Mills. Camp Mills, now known as Mitchell Field, was the center of military relief programs where people would rally and gather for war relief. It helped to establish a free clinic and it also served as a channel of communication between people in the war and their families.

Agency Mission: The American Red Cross depends on volunteers of all ages to carry on their work. Volunteers constitute 95 % of their total workforce, serving as members of the board, instructors teaching lifesaving skills, disaster action team members, office administrators, event organizers and more. The American Red Cross has made a

significant impact in millions of people's lives all over the world in times of disaster.

Funding Sources: Cablevision, First Data, New York Islanders, Pall Corporation & Winthrop University Hospital

Contact Information:

American Red Cross in Nassau County

195 Willis Avenue

Mineola, NY 11501

Phone: (516) 747-3500

Fax: (516) 747-4029

E-mail: nassau@usa.redcross.org

Submitted by:
Gary Adames
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