

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### American Red Cross Recognizes Community Support

MADISON, Wis.) – Thursday, October 15, 2009, the American Red Cross Badger Chapter and Badger-Hawkeye Blood Services Region joined together to recognize the high-level of community support received for the organization. The Celebration of Support is an annual event held to recognize public support of the American Red Cross.

Tom Mooney, CEO of the American Red Cross Badger Chapter welcomed everyone and thanked the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum for generously hosting this event. Celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, the UW Arboretum is renowned for its prairies, savannahs, forests, wetlands, and for the beauty of its gardens.



Two awards were presented during the event to area individuals and businesses that support the Red Cross and exemplify the mission of the Red Cross. The Risser Award was presented to Stephen DiTullio, president and managing partner at DeWitt Ross & Stevens S.C., for his contributions of time, expertise and financial gifts which help to strengthen and support the Badger Chapter's mission. The Risser Award is named in honor of Elizabeth Warner Risser who was steadfastly devoted to the Red Cross, serving in many chapter leadership posts for many years. Her son, State Senator Fred Risser, presented the award to Steve DiTullio. The Spirit of Annual Giving Award was presented to Fort Community

Credit Union for their contributions of time and blood. Greg Novinska, CEO of the American Red Cross Badger-Hawkeye Blood Services Region, presented the award to Bonnie Sonnenberg.

This year the Badger Chapter is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To commemorate this event former board chairs were invited to attend and share thoughts on their involvement with the Red Cross. "It is remarkable to look back at the past 100 years and all that has been accomplished. We appreciate you, our contributors and partners, for helping us to successfully pursue our mission of preventing, preparing, and responding to emergencies and disasters" remarked Tom Mooney.

#### **About the American Red Cross:**

*The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity*

*of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.*

**For information about supporting the local American Red Cross as a volunteer or financial donor, please call the Badger Chapter at (877) 618-6628, or visit the chapter website at [www.archadger.org](http://www.archadger.org).**

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