



**American  
Red Cross**  
in Greater New York

**ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT**

**June 4, 2009**

**HOST: CONTESSA BREWER**

**WRITER: Jim Lochner**

[CONTESSA BREWER TO THE PODIUM]

CONTESSA: Good evening Red Crossers! I'm Contessa Brewer, and I am thrilled and honored to be up here emceeding this year's "The Faces of the Red Cross" Volunteer Recognition and Awards Ceremony—it's my third year in a row. You know, as an anchor at MSNBC and a correspondent for NBC News, I report on many disastrous events—floods, wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes—where Red Cross volunteers are already on the scene. You truly are always there—and that's amazing. Your faces are a beacon of hope in Greater New York and throughout the world.

Something else that's amazing is the "I Red Cross NY" campaign that celebrates you, our volunteers, and aims to get more people just like you to "join" the Red Cross. The campaign, borrowing from the iconic "I Love NY" logo was developed pro-bono by Ogilvy New York, and features current Greater New York volunteers as the "face" of our Red Cross. Your faces are on billboards, buses, and taxis all around town. How many of you posed for the ads or are in the ads—please raise your hands? How many of you have seen the ads? We want to say a big thank you to our friends at Ogilvy and to all of you!

[APPLAUSE]

I want you to know that I too, “Red Cross” New York. Last year I became a Red Cross volunteer. I joined the Chapter’s Centennial Circle—an amazing group of women from business and community organizations who are working to make emergency preparedness a part of every New Yorker’s life. I’m proud to say that on April 25<sup>th</sup>, we held a “Mega-Preparedness Day” in Harlem in partnership with the Harlem Children’s Zone where we trained 400 residents to be “Red Cross Ready,” and gave each one of them a “Red Cross Emergency Go Bag” that’s ready to “go.” That’s 400 more New Yorkers who will now be prepared should an emergency strike. I think that’s awesome.

[APPLAUSE]

Now I want to thank all of you for Red Crossing New York—thank you for being there for so many of your neighbors when they are most in need of help. Your humanitarian aid and compassion makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our fellow New Yorkers. I applaud you, and everything you do!

[APPLAUSE]

CONTESSA: And, now, I’d like to invite Terry Bischoff, the Chapter’s Chief Executive Officer, to recognize the volunteers who are celebrating “Years of Service” milestones.

[CONTESSA EXITS]

[TERRY BISCHOFF TO THE PODIUM]

TERRY: Thank you, Contessa. And thank you once again for so graciously consenting to serve as Master of Ceremonies for this most important event, and for Red Crossing New York. You, Contessa, and all our other volunteers are the faces of the Red Cross, and one of our most valuable assets.

Before we begin celebrating our volunteers, I would like to say a few words about the challenges our chapter is confronting as a result of our National recession. Unfortunately we are not immune from the downturn affecting so many areas of our country and as a result we will be saying farewell to a number of our colleagues at the end of the month. I feel an immense sadness as we approach their departure, but know we will best honor the great work they have done for our chapter and our city by sustaining and building upon their accomplishments.

A good number of them are here with us tonight; please join me in giving them a round of applause and perhaps a hug later.

This means that you – will now comprise 98% of our total staff, touching all areas of our organization – disaster planning and response, health and safety, services to the armed forces, marketing and PR, and all of our service areas. We will continue to rely on you to help us meet our mission to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters with compassionate humanitarian support when it is needed most.

While our Chapter has and is undergoing significant change, our commitment to our mission and to the communities which we serve remains steadfast. We will continue to respond to every one of the 7 to 9 emergencies that happen every day in Greater New York, to train our community in lifesaving skills and preparedness, and to grow our volunteer corps.

[APPLAUSE]

TERRY CONTINUES: And now we turn to one of the most pleasurable parts of tonight's program. This year 140 of you are celebrating "years of service" milestones with the Chapter. Together, you have donated an astounding cumulative 1,035 years of service to ARC/GNY—responding to emergencies and disasters, teaching lifesaving skills classes, distributing preparedness materials at outreach events, helping non-English speakers communicate during emergencies, helping with office functions ... the list goes on.

If you look on the screen behind me, you'll see the names of each of our years of service volunteers.

I'd like to ask all of you celebrating 5 years of service to stand.

10 years of service—please stand.

15 years of service—stand, please

And those celebrating 20 to 40 years of service—please stand and be recognized.

Let's give them all a big round of applause!

TERRY: You can find a list of the volunteers celebrating years of service milestones on our Web site. Go to [nyredcross.org/volunteerrecognition](http://nyredcross.org/volunteerrecognition) and click through to “Years of Service.”

Our success in helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies could not be done without all of you, and I thank you for helping us to create these successes year after year. Your dedicated service is greatly appreciated—every day and in every way.

TERRY: I’d now like to ask my friend, FDNY Chief Salvatore Cassano, to join me.

[CHIEF CASSANO TO THE PODIUM]

TERRY: It’s a New York City Fire Department tradition to honor a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an especially significant milestone. Tonight, it’s my great pleasure to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Chapter’s partnership with a special group of Red Cross volunteers—the members of our Disaster Assistance Response Team, or D.A.R.T, which is made up of active and retired FDNY firefighters and fire officers from the five boroughs and the Lower Hudson Valley.

The D.A.R.T. partnership program between the American Red Cross in Greater New York and the FDNY was formed back in 1989 by Cesar Rivera, currently our Director of Response in the Lower Hudson Valley, and by then-active FDNY firefighter Luis Fragoso, to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Hugo in Puerto Rico. Since that time, when asked, D.A.R.T. members have responded to large-scale, national-level disasters as part of Red Cross emergency relief operations, as well as locally within our jurisdiction. Currently there are an amazing 174 D.A.R.T. members.

Since 1989, D.A.R.T. members have deployed to 91 national disaster relief operations—countless hurricanes, numerous plane crashes, including the recent fatal Buffalo crash, and of course, the World Trade Center attacks. Eight dedicated D.A.R.T. members worked with us, giving their all, at the mega-shelter in Louisiana during and after Hurricane Gustav. There have also been 57 additional deployments by D.A.R.T. members in the last 12 months, with many members deploying multiple times.

TERRY: Let me read you what the plaque says. [Reads plaque]

TERRY: Whew. D.A.R.T.'s accomplishments are truly amazing. How can we thank you enough? Turns to Cassano.

[CASSANO GIVES REMARKS]

TERRY: And now it's my pleasure to present the Distinguished Service Award to D.A.R.T. Chairman Luis Fragoso, who has been a D.A.R.T. member from the very beginning. As Luis is making his way up here, would Cesar Rivera and all the D.A.R.T. members in the audience please stand and be recognized?

[LUIS TO THE PODIUM]

TERRY: Luis, please accept this award from all of us at the Red Cross. We're looking forward to marking many future milestones together.

TERRY: Now, I'd like to invite Contessa back up to tell you about the very special slide show you're about to see.

[TERRY EXITS]

CONTESSA: As we present the "faces" of this year's award winners and nominees, I'd like to let you in on the story of how we captured the wonderful photos appearing in this year's "portrait gallery" and in the photomontage that is displayed outside this room.

Danish freelance photographer Lotte Hansen happened to see the I Red Cross New York campaign, and was so impressed with the faces of the Red Cross and the quality of the campaign that she contacted the Marketing and PR Department to see if she could build upon the spirit and originality of this campaign in some way. And of course, we gladly accepted the offer, and quickly put Lotte to work. She set up a "photo studio" here at the Chapter for four days where she took individual portraits of some of this year's nominees and winners, and then created a fabulous photomontage using these portraits to represent "The Faces of the Red Cross."

Lotte has been working on famous faces her entire career. She came to New York in 2000 to assist photographer Bruce Weber, known for famous ad campaigns for brands like Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Revlon, and has worked on ad campaigns and as a magazine photographer. Among Lotte's "famous faces" are celebrities Bono, Kevin Bacon and Meg Ryan, director Jane Campion and author Paul Auster. Since venturing on her own over 5 years ago, Lotte has been specializing in photographing "real people," and her collection of more than 10,000 candid photos of people on Spring Street in Soho will be published later this year.

Now, take a look at the screen behind me to see Lotte's fabulous photos of the faces of the Red Cross—not only are these "real faces" they are Red Cross "famous faces."

We thank Lotte for her amazing work in capturing the heart and soul of the Red Cross. Lotte, would you and your associates please stand and be acknowledged?

[APPLAUSE]

CONTESSA: Now I'd like to ask Jim Parker to come up to the podium.

[CONTESSA EXITS, JIM PARKER TO THE PODIUM]

[JIM PARKER GIVES MONOLOGUE]

JIM PARKER: And now I'd like to turn the microphone over to Joanne Rencher.

[JIM RETURNS TO THE AUDIENCE]

[JOANNE RENCHER TO THE PODIUM]

JOANNE: Hi, I'm Joanne Rencher, the Chief People Officer for the American Red Cross in Greater New York. In my job I oversee all the facets involved with the "people" who work with the American Red Cross in Greater New York— both volunteers and paid staff. Our Chapter succeeds because of the efforts of each and every volunteer and employee, working together to make a difference.

As you all know, ARC/GNY's goal is to recruit 10,000 disaster-trained volunteers to assist in a local large-scale disaster. I'm proud to report that in the first 10

months of our current fiscal year, the Chapter has added 1,321 disaster-trained volunteers—through Reserve Institutes, through our *Ready When the Time Comes* program, our Red Cross Campus Clubs, and through volunteer orientations.

And that's not all—by the end of this fiscal year, which is in just a few weeks, we will have a total of more than 7,070 dedicated volunteers—that's 2,000 more than we had at this time last year. I think that deserves a big round of applause!

Although we are honoring 12 award-winners tonight, a total of 134 individuals and groups were nominated for Volunteer Recognition awards this year. Your many accomplishments and deep commitment to the American Red Cross in Greater New York and its humanitarian mission is truly inspiring. Would all the nominees in the audience please stand and be recognized?

JOANNE: Now I'd like to recognize two award winners who could not be with us tonight, The Richmond County Savings Foundation and the City University of New York. Both organizations will receive their awards at a later date currently being scheduled.

The GOOD NEIGHBOR award is presented to an individual or organization that has made a significant humanitarian contribution to the local community in support of ARC/GNY. The Richmond County Savings Foundation, or RCSF, has been an important partner and a good neighbor to our Chapter to the Staten Island community. Its support has helped ARC/GNY—Staten Island to continue to assist residents during times of emergency and also to train residents in emergency preparedness and lifesaving skills.

In 2009, RCFS became one of our Silver Sponsors of the Annual Chrysanthemum Ball, which allowed ARC/GNY—Staten Island to surpass its revenue goals for the year. RCSF also generously funded the ARC/GNY Emergency Supply Container at Petrides High School. This container is a key element of our local disaster preparedness plan for Staten Island. Thanks, RCSF!

JOANNE: The Corporate Community Partnership Award is given to an organization that strives to help ARC/GNY help others. This year it goes to City University of New York. The University's Division of Student Affairs, has been a wonderful partner in ARC/GNY's efforts to engage New York City college

students. CUNY recognizes the importance of volunteer service in its community and in the development of its students.

The Division of Student Affairs helped ARC/GNY reach out to eight campuses to launch Red Cross Campus Clubs. We have now recruited on six campuses, started three Campus Clubs and built awareness among this key constituency. Members of these student clubs are part of ARC/GNY's disaster volunteer response teams and have the opportunity to take CPR/First Aid training. In addition, three campuses have also expressed interest in hosting fundraising events on ARC/GNY's behalf. A big thank you to CUNY!

JOANNE: Now it's my pleasure to honor our Volunteer Partnership Award recipient, Benjamin Young. Benjamin is a Volunteer Partner to Sonia Martinez, Director of Community Development. Benjamin works on projects that involve organizing community training events, supporting fundraising activities and building awareness of the Chapter's mission and programs. Most recently, he completed a media outreach initiative, cultivating relationships with publishers and persuading them to donate full-page ads for disaster relief efforts in their publications. At standard advertising rates, these ads, which appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Architectural Digest* and *Conde Nast Traveler*, among other publications, would be valued at over \$250,000.

In his "free time," Benjamin is enrolled in a very demanding dual-degree doctorate program in French and Romance Philology and Comparative Literature. (For those, who like me, have not heard of "philology," it means "a historical approach to literature.") Benjamin's dedication and outstanding efforts are an inspiration to all of us, and certainly attests to how one always can find time to volunteer. We thank you, Benjamin, for your tireless work at ARC/GNY. Please join me in congratulating Benjamin.

[PRESENT AWARD TO BENJAMIN]

[BENJAMIN RETURNS TO THE AUDIENCE]

JOANNE: And now, I am happy to present the 2009 Support Services Award to another one of our exceptional volunteers—one who performs many different and vital support roles here at the Chapter.

This year's winner is Richard Gallis, a Red Cross volunteer for the last 5 years, whose formal title of Volunteer Partner to Josh Martenson in Disaster Training & Exercises doesn't come close to saying it all.

Richard is seen about the Chapter on many other missions, and works closely with Volunteer Recruitment at tracking attendees at many training sessions— Volunteer Orientation/Fulfilling Our Mission, the Reserve Institute, and "Ready When the Time Comes." He makes sure that new volunteers don't fall through the cracks, and his warm, helpful interaction with these new volunteers during their training is a wonderful welcome to volunteering at ARC/GNY. And with Richard around, we're certain that all the disaster training data is accurately processed and updated.

Richard was also a big player in the development, testing and implementation of the disaster training function of "My Red Cross," the key to efficient scheduling and management of volunteer training.

Congratulations, Richard, and thank you for your many contributions to the Red Cross.

[RICHARD GALLIS RETURNS TO THE AUDIENCE]

JOANNE: Now, I'd like to ask our Chief Response Officer, Scott Graham, to step up to the microphone to help me give out the John McGee Memorial Award. This award recognizes the work of a paid staff member, nominated by a volunteer, who has made an outstanding contribution in strengthening the Chapter's volunteer program.

[SCOTT TO THE PODIUM]

JOANNE: Amazing. Positive leader. Great at her job, and a fantastic role model. These are but a few ways people who know Diane Ryan have come to describe her.

SCOTT: Diane joined our Chapter with Disaster Planning and Response as a volunteer in 2000. She became an employee in 2006. Today she is Director of Mental Health in Disaster Planning and Response. From the start, Diane has

worked exceptionally hard to ensure that mental health is a vital component in every NY Red Cross disaster response.

During two critical DSHR deployments—the first to the Louisiana Mega Shelter for Hurricane Gustav, and the second to the mass casualty event resulting from the recent plane crash in Buffalo—Diane was instrumental in leading the critical mental health support effort. During the Chapter’s mental health response to the Flight 1549 – “Miracle on the Hudson”—Diane was a diligent leader providing her unique understanding and compassion to both clients and volunteers.

JOANNE: Mentoring volunteers is another high priority for Diane. Recently she and her team were responsible for recruiting nearly 150 new members. But it is her positive presence and commitment to our organization’s mission that enables Diane to know her volunteers really well, while supporting their training and development.

SCOTT: Diane models the very spirit of the John McGee Memorial Award: she always gives recognition to others, and asks for nothing in return. Congratulations, Diane.

[PRESENT AWARD TO DIANE]

JOANNE: And now, Scott will present the next award.

[JOANNE AND DIANE RETURN TO THE AUDIENCE]

SCOTT: I’m delighted to announce that tonight we are awarding the 2009 First Year Award to not one, but TWO exceptional new take-charge volunteers: Oonagh Turitto and Anna-Claire Crombag.

Oonagh Turitto, co-winner of the 2009 First Year Award, joined the New York Chapter as a Reserve Institute volunteer at the end of January 2008. Since then she has taken 26 classes to hone her volunteer skills, dedicating herself to mass care. By the way, crowd control is second nature to Oonagh, who works in her day job as a counselor at a 1,400-student elementary school in Queens.

Oonagh is never without her pen and pad, whether she’s coordinating the Gold PRO team, participating in shelter exercises or operations in the field. Oonagh is

a born leader. During the response to Hurricane Ike, she was quickly elevated to the position of assistant shelter manager at a Houston mega-shelter. Recently, she was promoted to shelter supervisor in the DSHR system.

[OONAGH TO THE PODIUM]

[PRESENT AWARD TO OONAGH]

[APPLAUSE]

[OONAGH RETURNS TO THE AUDIENCE]

SCOTT: Anna-Claire Crombag, our other co-winner, joined the Chapter in April 2008, and quickly became an invaluable member of the Disaster Health Services team, putting to great use the medical training she received in her native Netherlands.

She volunteers an average of 30 hours per week, and her contributions are many. Anna is not only ready to deploy any time, anywhere, she also saves us money by using her medical and administrative knowledge to get third party insurers rather than the Red Cross to cover clients' drug and medical equipment costs. Additionally, she has upgraded the materials used to train Red Cross volunteers participating in drills and exercises, and helped to streamline record-keeping and casework processing. Anna-Claire's work as a volunteer manager has helped to more than triple the Health Services pool of volunteers.

Please join me in congratulating them both. Anna-Claire could not be with us tonight, so I'll accept and hold her award for her.

SCOTT: And now, I am pleased to present the 2009 Disaster Planning and Response Award to a truly hardworking volunteer from Putnam County, Greg Amato.

Greg is one of those people for whom "retirement" is a dirty word. A volunteer since 1995, he joined the Putnam Board of Directors in 1998, started the Putnam DAT team almost single-handedly in 1999, and serves as its captain. After 9/11, Greg made sure the local office was staffed every day of the week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to handle donations, spontaneous volunteer offers, information requests and more.

The Red Cross has also greatly profited from the leadership, experience and reputation which Greg gained as police chief of Carmel, New York. He has truly been our local ambassador, our local advocate—an invaluable liaison with Putnam County agencies and government officials. The approval to use the Lawlor Building as the county ARC/GNY office and the use of its grounds for two Red Cross storage containers was engineered by Greg. This tireless volunteer is now working on securing critical placement of disaster supplies and equipment containers in Putnam County by advocating the building of a shelter to house the containers in order to comply with town ordinances.

Congratulations, Greg, on so many jobs so well done.

[GREG TO THE PODIUM]

[SCOTT PRESENTS AWARD TO GREG]

SCOTT: And now it's my pleasure to introduce our Chief Administrative Officer, Richard Kane, who will give out the Kathryn Walter Stein Award.

[SCOTT AND GREG EXIT]

[RICHARD TO THE PODIUM]

RICHARD: Hello. I'm Richard Kane, and it is my pleasure to present this year's Kathryn Walter Stein Award, so named to recognize Ms. Stein's generous donations to our Red Cross. This award honors an individual who has served for at least one year, and who has done exemplary work in aquatics and/or service to the elderly.

Well, Loys Green certainly overqualifies in the length of service category. She has been a volunteer with the Greater New York Chapter since 1967—42 YEARS! When she signed up for her first Red Cross lifesaving skills class, the courses were FREE. And Loys was so grateful for all this free instruction that she became a volunteer instructor in order to repay the Chapter.

Now, Loys teaches at least 6 or 7 courses each year—courses that take students from 9 to 40 hours to complete, classes in lifeguarding, water safety, CPR and First Aid. Just imagine how many lives have been influenced or even saved by students graduating from one of Loy's classes. Not only is she responsible for educating many, many future instructors, she also mentors instructor trainers.

And this year, Loys went more than the extra mile—even back surgery did not keep her from teaching. Congratulations Loys!

[PRESENT AWARD TO LOYS]

RICHARD: And now I'd like to turn the microphone over to our Chief External Affairs Office, Rosemary Mackey, to present the next three awards.

[RICHARD AND LOYS RETURN TO THE AUDIENCE]

ROSEMARY: Thank you, Richard. Good evening. I'm happy to be presenting the 2009 Diversity Award, an honor that recognizes a volunteer who has served for at least one year and incorporates diversity-related tasks into the job. The winner of this year's award is Charito Cisneros, an Advisory Board member for our Bronx Area Office.

After helping to raise money for victims of the 2004 Tsunami, Charito decided that she really wanted to help out the Hispanic community in the Bronx by providing them with Red Cross preparedness information. She also wanted to convince Spanish-speaking people to become Red Cross volunteers so that they could help disseminate this preparedness information in their native tongue. And because Charito is a TV star with her own cable program—Abriendo Brecha International—where she always mentions the Red Cross, she was enormously successful in getting “Be Red Cross Ready” message out. When Charito is not raising awareness, she's raising money. What a wonderful combination.

Congratulations, Charito, and thank you for all your hard work.

[CHARITO TO THE PODIUM]

[ROSEMARY PRESENTS THE AWARD TO CHARITO]

[CHARITO RETURNS TO HER SEAT]

ROSEMARY: And now it's my pleasure to honor our Community Services Award recipient, Gary Tai.

Gary is a great example of someone who gives back to his or her community, and giving generously of himself. In his professional life, he works directly with the President of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the CCBA, an

association of more than 60 community organizations and affiliated members in Chinatown that serves the needs of Chinese-Americans in the Greater New York Metro area. He began volunteering with the Red Cross after 9/11, and since then has played a significant role in the Red Cross's outreach efforts to the Chinese-American community.

I first met Gary after the Tsunami in December 2004 when he was instrumental in raising money in the Chinese community for the victims of the devastation in Southeast Asia. Together with the community, he repeated those efforts to raise money for disaster relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina and the Chinese earthquake.

His contributions are many. His language skills have helped us communicate with Chinese-speaking audiences more effectively. He translated training materials and was essential in the development of a Chinese Web page on the Chapter Web site. His work with our Community Development team has helped raise awareness of the Red Cross among Chinese-Americans as a resource and place to turn in times of emergency.

Most recently, he assisted in the Chapter's response to a major building fire which occurred in Chinatown on a bitter cold morning in February. Gary came immediately to the reception center where more than 100 clients listened to him as he was interpreting information provided by ARC/GNY responders. Gary was the voice of trust and comfort for the Red Cross and the worried families.

As a result of Gary's Red Cross work and involvement with the CCBA, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two organizations last year to collaborate on training, volunteerism and fundraising initiatives. We thank Gary for the time, effort and dedication he has shown as a Red Cross volunteer.

[GARY TO THE PODIUM]

[ROSEMARY PRESENTS THE AWARD TO GARY]

[GARY RETURNS TO HIS SEAT]

ROSEMARY: Now I am delighted to present the 2009 International Humanitarian Services Award to Francoise Max. How great is it when someone who came to ARC/GNY as a client of International Services ends up becoming an award-winning volunteer? Francoise is Holocaust survivor who came to this

country from France. As a volunteer in International Services for the last two years, Francoise has spoken to Holocaust survivor groups about the Red Cross's tracing service and has suggested creative, constructive approaches to benefit our tracing clients.

Her personal experience and insight into the lives of some of our clients, together with her compassion and sensitivity, makes her uniquely suited for this work. Francoise truly does exemplify the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement—human dignity, respect, compassion, and protection and assistance of those in need. Please join me in congratulating her in receiving this award.

[FRANCOISE TO THE PODIUM]

[ROSEMARY PRESENTS THE AWARD TO FRANCOISE]

ROSEMARY: Now it's my pleasure to ask Terry Bischoff up to the microphone to present the final award of the evening, the Clara Barton award.

[ROSEMARY AND FRANCOISE RETURN TO THE AUDIENCE]

[TERRY TO THE PODIUM]

TERRY: We now come to the highest honor we bestow on a volunteer—the Clara Barton Award.

Clara Barton was honored during her lifetime and is still honored as one of the great women of America. She was a true pioneer. Her greatest pioneering began when she was 40 years old. Soon after the outbreak of the Civil War, her eyes were opened to the needs of people in distress and to the ways in which she and other volunteers could give help. An intense devotion to the aim of serving others led her on to enough achievements to fill several ordinary lifetimes.

Of course we focus today on her leadership in the founding of the American Red Cross and her determined efforts to have our country sign the Geneva Treaty in 1882, leading to our becoming part of this great international movement. Always the pioneer, she focused our efforts on disaster relief at home and introduced the idea of Red Cross disaster relief to many other national societies.

Clara had great charisma and by her actions she spelled out the meaning of mercy. We are so lucky to stand on the shoulders of this great woman.

In addition to tonight's awardee, we have a number of Clara Barton Award recipients from previous years joining us tonight. Would you please stand and be recognized.

Debra Dean, winner of the award last year, would you please join me for the presentation to this year's winner.

[DEBRA DEAN TO THE PODIUM]

TERRY: Michael N. Emmerman welcome to the very elite world of Clara Barton Awardees, a group in which you so clearly belong.

Mike leads three lives:

- he is a Managing Director and Money Manager at Neuberger Berman
- he is a devoted family man and is joined today by his wife Pat, herself a Red Cross volunteer, and their son TJ
- he is a volunteer, with an extraordinary commitment to service, certainly at the Red Cross, but not only at the Red Cross. Director of The Special Operations Group, Trustee of Long Island College, Fellow of The American College of Forensic Examiner, to name a few.

Our good fortune began in 1980; Mike became an instructor with the Montclair, NJ chapter. He transferred to us in 1988 and began to add to his contribution to our organization by becoming a Government Liaison Officer. He has responded to innumerable large and small disasters, always providing much-needed professionalism and experience. In addition to all his direct service work, he also serves on a Committee of our Board of Trustees, co-chaired the Responder Forum that reinvented the way responders are trained here at the chapter and plays the key role of Volunteer Partner for Scott Graham, our Chief Response Officer.

And last, but not least, I feel proud to be able to call him my friend.

DEBRA: Hi, I volunteer in Disaster Planning & Response here in the Manhattan office. I would like to add that Mike is a very dynamic and inspirational leader. I

can truly say that there is no greater ambassador for the ARC/GNY than Mike Emmerman. His citywide contacts are not only impressive, but very important to the NY Chapter. The depth and breadth of his knowledge and his network of resources has helped the ARC/GNY resolve crucial issues on numerous occasions. Wherever he goes, Mike spreads the word about the importance of the Red Cross mission.

TERRY: Congratulations, Mike, from both of us.

[PRESENT AWARD TO MIKE EMMERMAN]

[MIKE EMMERMAN SPEAKS]

[DEBRA AND MIKE RETURN TO THE AUDIENCE]

TERRY: I'd like to invite Blake Moore to join me.

[BLAKE MOORE TO THE PODIUM]

BLAKE: Hi, there. I'm Blake Moore, vice-chair of the Chapter's Board of Trustees, and I've been a board member at the Chapter for the last two years. One of my first experiences here was going on a "ride-along" to see firsthand just how the Red Cross operates at emergency scenes, and it sold me on getting involved. It was the kind of event we respond to every day here, an apartment fire that displaced several families. What struck me was that the police and fire departments finished up their work, and what they left were the PEOPLE, the people who were now out on the street, cold and wondering where to turn. And the Red Cross was there, and watching the volunteers take care of those people that night really demonstrates the power of the Red Cross—we step in when PEOPLE need us most, and have no where else to turn.

I have to say that I am really inspired by the dedication of tonight's award-winning volunteers. And I realize that they represent just a few of the 7,000 of you who give your time, energy and passion to the Greater New York Chapter. Keep up the great work.

A long time ago, as some of you may know, I played football in the NFL, as an offensive lineman with the Cincinnati Bengals and the Green Bay Packers. I know, it is hard to believe, but trust me I was much larger and had a lot more hair

in those days! As offensive linemen, we were expected to do the tough work for the team—get muddy, bloody, hot, cold, sweaty and tired—and we had to all work together on the line to make the team successful. We didn't usually get a lot of recognition for what we did. But there would be no team success without us.

The same could be said for all of you, our volunteers. You do the tough work, the work behind the scenes, you get muddy and tired and hot and cold and wet and still come back for more. Without you, there is no Red Cross. So it is in that spirit that I would like to say thank you to each and every one of our volunteers. I am honored to be one of you.

Thank you all very much for your service.

BLAKE: Don't go yet! I have just three more quick things to day: First, congratulations to each and every one of you. Thank you for all that you do for our community. Second: would all of the award-winners and the presenters please gather at the Red Cross "banner" next to the elevator banks by the entrance so we can take your photos. We also encourage all of our Years of Service recipients to have their photo taken with a Chief Officer in front of the banner at 8 p.m., along with any volunteer who would also like to have their photo taken with a Chief Officer or with Contessa Brewer. Third: Would everyone else please head out for food and drink—to the tent outside, and down the hall to the left as you leave this room. Eat, drink, dance, and enjoy the rest of the evening!

[END]