



**American
Red Cross**

Heart of Tennessee Chapter

****PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE UNTIL
SATURDAY APRIL 24, 2010 BY
REQUEST OF DR. ERENZO**

Heart of Tennessee Chapter
836 Commercial Court
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
www.midtnredcross.org

News Release NEWS RELEASE

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MTSU Professor Running for the Red Cross

(MURFREESBORO) April 23, 2010 - Ethiopian native, Dr. Daniel Erenzo has always been inspired by fellow Ethiopian, Abebe Bikila, who was the first black African to win an Olympic gold medal in the 1960 Summer Olympics. Not only did Bikila win the race, but he did so running barefoot, after the shoes that he was issued did not fit properly. After the race, Bikila was asked why he had run barefoot, and he replied, "I wanted the world to know that my country, Ethiopia, has always won with determination and heroism."

Like Bikila, MTSU Associate Professor of Physics, Daniel Erenzo recently decided that he would attempt to run the Nashville Half Marathon barefoot as well, in honor of the upcoming 50th anniversary of this momentous event in Ethiopian history. "Originally I was just going to run the race barefoot, but then I decided that if I was really going to do it I wanted to do it in honor of a local charity. Immediately I thought of the Red Cross because of the recent earthquake in Haiti. After speaking with my local Heart of Tennessee Chapter, I decided to help raise money and awareness about the important disaster relief aid they provide to people in our community every single day," said Dr. Erenzo.

Erenzo will be running the Nashville Half Marathon in Centennial Park this Saturday wearing a Red Cross t-shirt and hat in hopes of raising awareness about the work of the local Red Cross and to encourage people to donate to their efforts. Donations can be mailed to the Heart of Tennessee Chapter at 836 Commercial Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37129 or given online at www.midtnredcross.org in honor of Dr. Erenzo.

"The Murfreesboro tornado last year was about a mile and a half from my home and I saw the immediate Red Cross response during that event, so I know how important it is that they have the funds to be prepared and ready for future disasters," said Erenzo.

"When Dr. Erenzo called us with this idea we were really excited about it and honored that he chose to help the American Red Cross through his efforts," said Red Cross CEO, Greg King.

The Heart of Tennessee Chapter of the American Red Cross provides vital emergency assistance to help victims of local disasters in Rutherford, Bedford, Cannon, Franklin, Coffee & Moore counties. Over the past year the Chapter trained nearly 15,000 people in CPR & First Aid, Babysitting and Aquatics training, and provided pre-deployment briefings and emergency communications for over 640 active duty military personnel and their families. Over 13,177 pints of life-saving blood were collected from the community last year. All of these services are made possible by over 320 dedicated local Red Cross volunteers as well as through generous gifts from the local community. To get more information please call 615) 893-4272 or log on to www.midtnredcross.org.

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