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News Release NEWS RELEASE

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Red Cross Respite Center Remains Open

Smyrna Location Provides Food, Snacks & Place to Stay

(MURFREESBORO) May 5, 2010 – The Heart of Tennessee Chapter continues to operate a Respite Center at *Highland Heights Church of Christ, located at 785 South Lowry Street in Smyrna*. The Respite Center offers a safe place to stay, food, drinks and snacks for those affected by the flooding. The center will close at 8 pm if there is no one present needing shelter for the evening. It will reopen 8:30 a.m., Thursday morning.

How to Help:

You can help your local Red Cross assist local disaster victims in our community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by making a contribution to the Heart of Tennessee Chapter at 836 Commercial Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37129 or online at www.midtnredcross.org. At this time all of the immediate spontaneous volunteer needs for the Heart of Tennessee Chapter have been met for this disaster. If you are interested in becoming a trained Red Cross volunteer so that you will be ready to respond to the next disaster please [sign up](#) and complete a background check online at www.midtnredcross.org today!

The American Red Cross does **not** accept or solicit small, individual donations or collections of items for emergency relief purposes. Small items such as collections of food, used clothing, and shoes often must be cleaned, sorted, and repackaged which impedes the valuable resources of money, time, and personnel that are needed for other aspects of our relief operation. The Red Cross, in partnership with other agencies, suggests that the best use for those types of donations is to support needy agencies within your community that are capable of processing these items.

Help people affected by disasters like the recent floods, by donating to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for disasters and provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance to victims of all disasters. Call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting www.redcross.org.

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