



**American  
Red Cross**

of Lee County

Lee County Chapter  
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## **Five years after Charley, Lee County is better prepared** *New Red Cross programs and volunteers have reached thousands*

**FORT MYERS, August 10** – Over 12,000 people sheltered; nearly 500,000 meals and snacks served; over \$1 million in direct financial assistance distributed – the numbers surrounding the 2004 hurricane season and the services provided by the American Red Cross in Lee County are staggering.

Still, the work did not stop there. In fact, since the '05 hurricane season, the Lee County Red Cross has worked to improve and expand its services. In the past five years, Lee County Red Cross has provided over 70,000 residents with disaster preparedness and prevention information, trained more than 1,300 new volunteers and increased its focus on low-income, mobile home and at-risk populations.

Also following the '05 season was the inception of the Lee County Red Cross Diversity Outreach program. Over 50 bi-lingual volunteers have been recruited, trained and active during disaster responses. From Lehigh Acres to Pine Island, bi-lingual Red Cross volunteers have educated Spanish and Creole-speaking residents with disaster preparedness and prevention training. The chapter also created a designated Spanish phone line (239-278-5234) Lee County Red Cross volunteer Carmen Munoz helped create the program and has recently counseled other Red Cross chapters across the country in creating their own bi-lingual programs.

To help the Lee County Red Cross recognize the 5-year Hurricane Charley Anniversary, The Timbers Restaurant and Fish Market (730 Tarpon Bay Rd, Sanibel) will hold a fundraiser August 13 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information call The Timbers at 239-472-3128.

Being the leading provider of preparedness and life-saving skills training, the American Red Cross would like to recommend **three basic steps** to take to be prepared for this hurricane season.

- **Get a kit** - build a disaster supplies kit that includes enough supplies for each family member for at least three days.
- **Make a plan** - which includes a family communications plan and evacuation plan. Coordinate your plan with your child's school, your work and community communication plans. Practice this plan with your entire family.
- **Be informed** - Get to know the types of disasters that can happen in your community. Find out how local officials will contact you in a disaster.

For more detailed information on how you or your business can be prepared for a hurricane, visit the American Red Cross of Lee County's website [arclcc.org](http://arclcc.org) or call 278-3401.

*The Red Cross is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. It provides training in life-saving skills and mobilizes relief to victims of disasters in addition to assisting members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. For additional information about the Red Cross and the assistance it provides, making donations, registering for a class or volunteering, call 278-3401, or log on to [arclcc.org](http://arclcc.org). The American Red Cross of Lee County is a proud member of the United Way of Lee County.*

