

Subject: American Red Cross Appoints Sharon Stanley as Chief Nurse  
April 8, 2009

#### American Red Cross Press Release

Washington, DC - The American Red Cross has appointed Sharon A. R. Stanley, PhD, RN, RS, Chief Nurse and Director of Disaster Health and Disaster Mental Health. As Chief Nurse, Stanley supports the involvement of the more than 30,000 nurses who serve throughout the organization as Red Cross volunteers and employees. She also is the Red Cross nursing liaison with professional organizations, nursing schools and governmental health care agencies.

"A reserve of volunteer nurses, readily available and disaster trained, is needed for Red Cross domestic response to natural and manmade disasters across this nation," Stanley said. Stanley added that it is important for nurses to remain engaged with their communities, prepared to identify and tackle any service gaps Red Cross nurses can fill.

Stanley's appointment comes as the Red Cross celebrates One Hundred Years of American Red Cross Nursing. As Chief Nurse, Stanley follows in the footsteps of Red Crossers who have provided nursing leadership and mentorship and have laid the groundwork for nurses to support the Red Cross mission to provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Stanley works closely with the National Nursing Chair, Vivian Littlefield, Emerita Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing, who remains totally committed to the practice and profession of nursing and the assurance that nursing remains a core function with American Red Cross operations and disaster response.

Before joining the Red Cross, Stanley was Program Director for the Ohio Center for Public Health Preparedness in the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University. Funded by the Center for Disease Control, the center is part of a national network of academic institutions working in collaboration with state and local public health departments and other community partners to prepare the public health workforce to assist communities prepare for disaster. Previous to her Ohio State position, she was the first Chief of Disaster Planning at the Ohio Department of Health.

In the public health field for over 25 years, Stanley has been Health Commissioner in two Ohio counties and has taught community health nursing at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Retired from the US Army Reserves, Stanley served as Commander of the 307th Medical Group, a brigade-level command with responsibility for more than 1,500 soldiers and civilian employees over a three-state region and a health care system including two Combat Support Hospitals with multiple dental, veterinary and combat stress detachments. She received a Master of Arts in Homeland Security and Defense in December 2008 from the Naval Postgraduate School.

American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of the recent hurricanes and thousands of other disasters across the country each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those in need. Call 1-800-HELP NOW 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](http://www.redcross.org). The American Red Cross honors donor intent. If you wish to designate your donation to a specific disaster please do so at the time of your donation.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and counsels victims of disasters; provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply; teaches lifesaving skills; 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 humanitarian mission.