



POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS RECOGNIZES AMERICAN RED CROSS EFFORT WITH \$95,000 DONATION

POARCH CREEK INDIAN RESERVATION, Alabama – September 29, 2005 – The Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribe announced today that it is donating \$95,000 to the American Red Cross to help with hurricane relief efforts. Tribal Chairman Fred L. McGhee will present the check Thursday when representatives from the American Red Cross Alabama Gulf Coast Chapter visit the reservation.

“It has always been a tradition within our Tribe to help others,” said Chairman McGhee. “Not only is this the right thing to do for our neighbors, it is also important for us to honor this tradition for our future generations.”

The donation, which is part of the Tribe’s ongoing Planned Giving Campaign, represents an \$85,000 gift to the National Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund and a \$10,000 contribution earmarked for the Alabama Gulf Coast Chapter.

“After Hurricane Ivan hit, our local Red Cross chapter really came through for all of us who live in this area,” noted April Sells, Tribal Emergency Management Director for the Poarch Creeks.

“We had so many people in the area without food, water, electricity, or ice. The Red Cross set up a distribution site for meals, provided counselors to assist our children, and provided cleanup kits for our community. Through their support, we were able to feed everyone in the community twice a day after the storm. It didn’t matter if they were Tribal members or not.”

“The Tribe’s donation is our expression of appreciation for the American Red Cross’s assistance when we needed them most,” says Robert McGhee, Tribal Councilman and President of Creek Indian Enterprises. “Now it’s our turn to help. We want to support the Red Cross as they help other communities in need.”

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About the Poarch Band of Creek Indians

The Poarch Creek Indians are descendents of a segment of the original Creek Nation, which once covered almost all of Alabama and Georgia. Unlike many eastern Indian tribes, the Poarch Creeks were not removed from their tribal lands and have lived together for almost 200 years in and around the reservation in Poarch, Alabama. The reservation is located eight miles northwest of Atmore, Alabama in rural Escambia County, and 57 miles east of Mobile.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is the only federally recognized Indian Tribe in the state of Alabama, operating as a sovereign nation with its own system of government and bylaws. The Tribe operates a variety of economic enterprises, which employ hundreds of area residents. Poarch Creek Indian Gaming manages three gaming facilities in Alabama, including: the Creek Entertainment Center in Atmore; Riverside Entertainment Center in Wetumpka; and, Tallapoosa Entertainment Center in Montgomery. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians is an active partner in the state of Alabama, contributing to economic, educational, social and cultural projects benefiting both tribal members and residents of these local communities and neighboring towns.

The Tribe's Planned Giving Campaign includes significant donations to local schools, education scholarships, senior centers, youth athletics, and charitable organizations.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross continues to help those who have been affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by providing shelter to over 2.8 million people, serving more than 14.4 million meals and providing an extensive amount of financial assistance to those in need.

The Alabama Gulf Coast Red Cross Chapter continues to provide local assistance to those affected by these storms by providing shelter, food, and financial assistance.

The local Red Cross sheltered close to 700 people immediately after the storm and continues to provide sheltering to over 150 people who are looking for more permanent housing. The Red Cross has helped these residents with their healthcare needs, registering their children for school in addition to providing for their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

Over 224,000 snacks and more than 150,000 meals have been distributed through 3 fixed kitchens and Emergency Response Vehicles continue to deliver meals, snacks, and water in the affected areas.

In the Alabama Gulf Coast Chapter five county service area over \$25 million in emergency financial assistance has been given to over 20,000 client cases affected in these counties in addition to evacuees from Mississippi and Louisiana.

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All American Red Cross disaster service is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of this disaster 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. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to the local American Red Cross, Alabama Gulf Coast Chapter, P.O. Box 1764, Mobile, AL 36633 (251) 438-2571. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting www.redcross.org.

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