

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

Providing emergency preparation and support services across the region



Programs supported by United Way's Community Action Fund: 2011-2012

Agency Name	Program	Description
<b>American Red Cross Virginia Capital Region</b>	<i>Disaster Preparedness</i>	This program ensures a resilient community through education and coalition building. The program educates vulnerable populations on how to prepare for and mitigate the impact of disasters. In addition, the program develops and strengthens relationships with local agencies and organizations tasked with response and relief efforts. By bringing these organizations together, resources and relationships are developed that make relief efforts more efficient and effective when disasters occur
	<i>Disaster Relief</i>	<p>Since 1917, the Disaster Relief Program has been meeting the needs of individuals affected by disaster. Red Cross responds whether the disaster is a fire in a single-family home, an industrial accident that affects thousands, or a hurricane that disrupts the lives of many more. Often, victims of disaster are also our most vulnerable citizens – children, low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled – so assistance from the Red Cross helps to prevent homelessness in many cases.</p> <p>The comprehensive disaster services program includes providing for the immediate emergency needs of disaster victims or emergency workers. Services include setting up temporary shelters and fixed or mobile feeding operations, and distributing relief supplies. The Red Cross focuses initially on the disaster-related needs that are essential in order to enable victims to resume their normal living arrangements such as food, clothing and shelter. Once immediate needs are met, program staff help clients to develop and implement a long-term recovery plan. Additional services include disaster health services, disaster mental health services, and client services that support the disaster victim's recovery process.</p>