



**American
Red Cross**

of Greater Indianapolis

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NEWS RELEASE

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Greater Indy Red Cross Board of Directors Supports Plans for New Wishard Hospital

INDIANAPOLIS, October 22, 2009 – At a recent meeting, the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis voiced unanimous support of the following resolution:

The Marion County Health and Hospital Corporation proposes the construction of a new Wishard Memorial Hospital on the campus of IUPUI. The board notes that the construction will be paid for through a bond issue that will be repaid by existing revenue streams hence requiring no new or additional tax. A referendum is required to approve the financing for the proposed new hospital.

Joe Simpson, director of administration for Indiana Legal Services and member of the Board, was chairman of the Greater Indianapolis Red Cross from 2003-2005. “I have so many great memories of my time as Red Cross chairman, but the one that stands out above all the rest, is how this community reached out to evacuees with understanding and kindness during Hurricane Katrina.”

The Red Cross collaborated with community partners to meet the immediate and long-term needs of thousands of Katrina evacuees. Wishard personnel were some of the first people the evacuees met when they arrived. “They had been through so much; Wishard staff treated them with the utmost dignity and respect, which went a long way toward easing their initial fears. One of the major reasons that Indianapolis shined during that time was Wishard—they put a caring face on the city.”

Simpson concluded by saying, “People look to Wishard like they look to the Red Cross...in extraordinary times and on a daily basis. We serve together on the frontlines caring for people when they need it most. Wishard deserves new facilities. We never know where or when the next national catastrophe will occur; we all need them to be in a position to provide quality care.”

The Board of Directors of the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis, a member of the United Way of Central Indiana, proudly supports The Wishard Hospital Project and encourages the public to positively consider the upcoming referendum on Tuesday, Nov. 3, so that Wishard may continue to fulfill its critical role in this community.

Thanks to the generosity of its volunteers, financial supporters and community partners, the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis reaches one in three households in central Indiana each year by responding to disasters 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year; reducing the impact of disasters through planning and preparedness education; empowering people with lifesaving training in the workplace, in the classroom and online; supporting military families with emergency communications and other services; giving first aid care at community events; providing free medical transportation to people in need and developing the volunteer and leadership skills of youth.

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