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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioners Proclaim March American Red Cross Month

Cumberland County, Pennsylvania- Today during their public meeting, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners presented a Proclamation in recognition of American Red Cross Month to representatives of the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC). The American Red Cross exists to provide compassionate care to those in need. ARC's network of generous donors, volunteers and employees share a mission of preventing and relieving suffering, here at home and around the world.

The Cumberland County Department of Public Safety works closely with the ARC's local Chapter in disaster preparedness and response and depends on the organization to provide a variety of valuable services in the disaster response effort. ARC provides assistance and sheltering for fire victims, opens and operates disaster shelters/mass care centers for those impacted by disasters, and provides food and beverages to first responders on the scene of long-term incidents.

Last fiscal year (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016), ARC of the Central Pennsylvania Region has responded to 49 disaster calls in Cumberland County, assisting 121 individuals with immediate disaster relief. Additionally, over 4,000 military personnel were provided support with 24/7 emergency communications, counseling, financial assistance, and other services to military families and veterans. During this time, ARC also collected over 1600 units of life-saving blood. Educational programs on disaster preparedness and training of CPR and First Aid life-saving skills are also part of their work. With extensive preparedness planning and training of a large volunteer force, ARC is able to respond to community needs when disaster strikes.

March is American Red Cross Month and Cumberland County is thankful to have such a hardworking and dedicated Chapter in our region with 176 volunteers serving Cumberland County. For more information on the American Red Cross Central Pennsylvania Chapter visit www.redcross.org/local/centralpa.

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