



PRESS  
Press Room



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CHARITY NAVIGATOR EVALUATES RED CROSS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA**

**Colorado Springs, CO** – Trent Stamp, Executive Director of Charity Navigator, a watchdog organization which monitors more than 5,000 charities, was interviewed on NPR's Weekend Edition Saturday. While Stamp identified several areas where the nation's disaster response could be improved, he reported good news for the American Red Cross in regards to its financial management of the organization's response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Stamp stated that Hurricane Katrina resulted in the "biggest one-time philanthropic response in the history of this country" by raising 4.25 billion dollars with the Red Cross raising "over 50% of funding for this disaster".

In response to a question as to how he thought the Red Cross spent the money on this disaster response, Stamp stated, "I think the Red Cross spent their money admirably." And in talking about the challenges and magnitude of the disaster response, he stated, "When you add all that in and recognize the fact that they are just human beings doing the absolute best they can possibly do, I think the Red Cross can hold their heads high today"

Stamp was also asked if money donated to the Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina was spent on that disaster, and his response was, "You could know that if you gave money to Katrina that the money was only going to be spent on Katrina."

While the Red Cross encourages citizens to contribute to the National Disaster Relief Fund (a fund designated solely for disaster relief but not specific to a single disaster), their *DonorDirect* fundraising program honors each donor's intent by ensuring that monies donated and designated for a specific disaster will be used for that disaster only.

The American Red Cross is where people mobilize to help their neighbors—across the street, across the country, and across the world—in emergencies. Each year, in communities large and small, victims of some 70,000 disasters turn to neighbors familiar and new—the nearly one million volunteers and 35,000 employees of the Red Cross. Through almost 900 locally supported chapters, more than 15 million people gain the skills they need to prepare for and respond to emergencies in their homes, communities and world. Some four million people give blood—the gift of life—through the Red Cross, making it the largest supplier of blood and blood products in the United States. And the Red Cross helps thousands of U.S. service members separated from their families by military duty stay connected. As part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, a global network of 181 national societies, the Red Cross helps restore hope and dignity to the world's most vulnerable people. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work. Contributions to the American Red Cross may be sent to American Red Cross Pikes Peak Chapter, 1040 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

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