

SANTA BARBARA TEA FIRE RESPONSE FUND

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Christopher Davis or Juliana Minsky
805/687-3322
cd@surfmedia.com; jm@surfmedia.com

United Way Designates the American Red Cross, Santa Barbara County Chapter as Center for Tea Fire Fund Applications

Santa Barbara, CA, January 12, 2009—The Santa Barbara Tea Fire Response Fund, a collaborative community partnership, formed in the days following the devastating Tea Fire, that began on November 13, 2008, is ready to begin reviewing and disbursing funds that have been so generously donated. The fund to date has raised approximately \$405,000. Individuals and families affected by the fire who desire assistance must apply at the American Red Cross, Santa Barbara County Chapter at 2707 State St. Santa Barbara, California from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday. Applicants should bring proof that their house was burned down, damaged, or that they have been adversely affected by the fire. Examples include a driver's license with the destroyed home's address or utility correspondence sent to them at the address in question. All applications are confidential. Red Cross has offered to provide the case management service. If you have already applied to Red Cross you do not need to apply again. An American Red Cross Case Manager will meet with you to discuss your un-met needs. To set an appointment with a Case Manger contact Pamela Voge at American Red Cross at (805) 687-1331.



SANTA BARBARA TEA FIRE RESPONSE FUND

Tea Fire Response Funds will be distributed based on a two-tiered system where a public-private partnership of agencies and officials will provide screening at the social worker/case manager level and an oversight committee of local leaders will provide direction and assurance that all monies are used appropriately. United Way of Santa Barbara County is acting as the fiscal agent, handling the monies for the fund. United Way is not charging for this service and 100% of all donations will go for services to Tea Fire Survivors.

The Tea Fire Response Fund is committed to the long term recovery of the community. As such disbursements will be made throughout the year as unmet needs of fire survivors continue to be identified. Disbursements will be made on a quarterly basis until all funds are disbursed, no later than December 31, 2009. The first Response Fund checks will be distributed in March and every three months thereafter. This is a tentative schedule and may be adjusted based on what the screening subcommittee and oversight committee determines are the most pressing short term, midterm and long range needs of the community.

All the participants and partners of the Tea Fire Response Fund would like to thank all those who donated their time, effort, and money to help those affected by the Tea Fire.

For Fund-related questions:

Joel Goforth, United Way Community Impact Department
805-965-8591 x136 jgoforth@unitedwaysb.org

For Fund Application questions:

Pamela Voge, American Red Cross Case Manager
805-687-1331 x107 pvoge@sbredcross.org



SANTA BARBARA TEA FIRE RESPONSE FUND

Tea Fire Response Fund Oversight Committee

Janet Stanley, CEO, American Red Cross, Santa Barbara County Chapter
G. Paul Didier, President & CEO, United Way of Santa Barbara County
Ron Gallo, President & CEO, Santa Barbara Foundation
Marty Blum, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara
Salud Carbajal, Supervisor 1st District, County of Santa Barbara
Les Carroll, General Manager, KZSB AM 1290
Michael Granados, CEO Smith Media, KEYT3 Santa Barbara
George Leis, President & CEO Santa Barbara Bank & Trust

Tea Fire Fund Screening Subcommittee

Brian Clark, Catholic Charities
Louise Kolbert, Director of Emergency Services, American Red Cross, Santa Barbara County Chapter
Tom Reed, Unity Shoppe
Brett Williams, Direct Relief International
Jay McAmis, County Office of Emergency Services
Joe Woodruff, Lions Club
Ed Lamb, First Southern Baptist Church
Justin Haagen, ServiceMaster
Geri Ventura, MERRAG/Montecito Fire Department
Michael Williams, Wildland Residents Association
Joel Goforth, United Way of Santa Barbara County
Gracie Huerta, City OES/SBFD
Jim Rivera, Santa Barbara Foundation

###

