

Miltonians asked to give during Red Cross Month

This month is Red Cross Month. To kick it off, the Canadian Red Cross is reminding Canadians that disaster preparedness and response requires a significant level of community investment.

It's asking Milton residents to consider supporting it by donating their time or money.

"Our campaign slogan sums it up — Futures have always been a good investment," said Allison Goertzen, community services coordinator with the North Halton branch. "This month we want to raise awareness among Canadians that it's volunteers and donors that enable the Red Cross to prepare and respond to the needs of vulnerable people in communities here and around the world."

She said people sometimes don't realize that the person they could end up helping could be a neigh-

bour or family member.

Red Cross's unique ability to mobilize its vast network of staff and volunteers enables the organization to respond at a moment's notice, whether the call for help comes from within Canada or from across the world.

Last year, Red Cross helped those affected by the forest fires in British Columbia, the floods in Badger, Nfld., and provided assistance to hundreds of Canadians who were forced from their homes by fire.

Humanity and impartiality — two of the principles that guide the Red Cross in all its operations — have positioned it as a trusted and impartial body that can be turned to for help regardless of a person's race, religion or beliefs.

"When an earthquake shattered lives in Bam, Iran, the Canadian

Red Cross responded. When one of our community offices received a call from a senior citizen seeking transportation to a medical appointment, we responded," said Ms Goertzen. "Without the generosity of the Canadian people, this response capacity would be greatly weakened."

Ms Goertzen said the North Halton Red Cross is encouraging Miltonians to find out what their local Red Cross does and how they can become involved.

"Your donation provides compassion, food, shelter, health services and helps reunite families. But most important, it gives people back their dignity," she said.

To learn more about the local Red Cross, or to support its vital programs and services through a financial donation, call (905) 875-1459 or visit www.redcross.ca.

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