



National Headquarters

Dear Red Cross Friend,

September 11, 2001, will be remembered as one of the most frightening days in American history. But it also set in motion one of the greatest humanitarian responses our nation will ever witness.

Thanks to people like you, the American Red Cross was able to immediately spring into action to bring help and hope to millions. Whether you are a Red Cross paid or volunteer staff member or one of the many organizations and individuals who played a critical role in supporting our efforts, you were there. You comforted families affected directly and indirectly by the tragedies. You provided important services to the unprecedented legions of emergency workers. And most important, you set in place the groundwork that permitted our nation to take its first tentative steps toward recovery.

Numbers hardly do credit to your amazing accomplishments. As a measure of your efforts, however, they are telling. You were at the scene in New York, the Pentagon, the crash site in Pennsylvania, and at airports around the country within moments of the attacks. In the first six months, more than 52,000 volunteers had helped the Red Cross provide financial assistance to almost 55,000 families who had lost loved ones, people who were seriously injured, and those put out of their homes or work because of the tragedies. More than 231,000 people turned to you for emotional support and grief counseling. You served more than 14 million meals and snacks.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." In the midst of shock and grief, you were among those who stepped forward to heal.

On behalf of the American Red Cross, I want to thank you for your important contributions to our efforts to help our neighbors since September 11.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David McLaughlin".

David McLaughlin  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold J. Decker".

Harold J. Decker  
Interim President and CEO