

# PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Red Cross Honors Suquamish

*Tribe Receives 2008 Community Award At Annual Heroes Breakfast*

**SUQUAMISH, April 2008-** The American Red Cross has selected the Suquamish Tribe as the recipient of the 2008 Commitment to Community Award.

Suquamish Foundation Executive Director Michael Felts accepted the award on behalf of the tribe during the American Red Cross Annual Heroes Breakfast at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton last month.

"For the past several years, the Suquamish Tribe has been a huge supporter of the Red Cross, both here in Kitsap and across the state. We wanted to give them a sense of how much we appreciate their contributions, both individually and as a whole," said Red Cross Advisory Board Chair Jennifer Irvine Forbes.

The Suquamish Tribe has helped thousands of people by supporting the American Cross in responding to local and national disasters, providing financial support for emergency preparedness programs and by sponsoring the American Red Cross West Sound Youth Corps Summer programs. The youth programs enable volunteers to train more than 3,000 students each summer.

With help from the Suquamish and other dedicated community members the American Red Cross West Sound Chapter has provided 3,561 meals and 5,669 shelter nights to local individuals who suffered from a disaster over the past two years. They brought together 1,597 local volunteers who gave 124,738 service hours of time and expertise, conducted 8,517 health and safety classes for 64,248 participants and helped 11,107 youth and community members prepare for disasters. They've also assisted 1,194 military families with emergency communications, welfare inquires and other services.

"We could not do what we do without organizations like the Suquamish Tribe," said Forbes.

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