



**American  
Red Cross**

Capital Area Chapter

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*News Release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross**

**Helps Afghanistan/Iraq Veterans through BRAIVE Grants**

**Tallahassee, FL**--A refrigerator is a small amenity that many people take for granted.

However, when an injured Afghanistan veteran contacted the Capital Area Chapter this past April for financial assistance, it was his humble request.

The Capital Area Chapter was able to purchase the soldier a new refrigerator and stove for his family through funds provided by the BrAIve grant. The grant helps transition military personnel and their families from active duty in Afghanistan and Iraq to civilian life. The Capital Area Chapter also awards BrAIve grants to military personnel in the Big Bend community who are in need of emergency financial assistance. Since July 2009, approximately \$150,000 has been awarded to more than 40 deserving families. The average amount given to each family is \$2,300, for basic needs items to assistance with meeting a mortgage payment.

“The BrAIve Grant has been an absolute lifeline for the service men and women returning from war during one of the worst recessions since the Great Depression,” said Dan Samborn, the Chapter’s Chief Executive Officer. “Society is very welcoming to the service personnel; however, the economy has been less kind. The Red Cross offers numerous programs

to the service personnel for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).”

People often wonder how they can support our country’s military members and families. What they may not realize is that the American Red Cross has been providing services to the U.S Armed Forces for more than 125 years, and that communities around the country make this possible by volunteering their time and financial support. The Red Cross has the honor to connect families during difficult and emotional family crises. We are their link to family members and provide the military personnel’s commanders verifiable and necessary information to make informed decisions about leave.

Service to the Armed Forces is a Red Cross initiative that provides humanitarian support to service members, veterans, and their families around the world. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, the Red Cross quickly sends emergency communications to deployed service members on behalf of their immediate family. This program also facilitates access to financial assistance, and provides information and referrals to other social services.

For more information on the Service to the Armed Forces or the BrAIve grant please visit our web site at [www.tallyredcross.org](http://www.tallyredcross.org) or contact us at (850) 878-6080.

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**About the American Red Cross:** *The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit us at [www.TallyRedCross.org](http://www.TallyRedCross.org) or join us on our Facebook page, blog or follow us on Twitter.*