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Denise Ilitch to receive Clara Barton Ambassador Award from American Red Cross on March 27

Birmingham, Mich. (March 19, 2008) — Denise Ilitch, publisher of *Ambassador Magazine*, has been selected to receive the Clara Barton Ambassador Award to be presented at the American Red Cross Hero Awards on Thursday, March 27 in Troy. Ilitch is being honored for her extensive philanthropic work in southeast Michigan.

Clara Barton was one of America's greatest heroines—a true patriot and philanthropist who, when she saw a practical need, gave every ounce of her strength to address it. Almost single-handedly she founded the American Red Cross, which has provided comfort in times of crisis since 1881. For the second consecutive year the Home Team Red Cross in southeast Michigan honors her work by presenting the Clara Barton Ambassador Award to a strong woman in leadership, both in business and philanthropy, who is making outstanding contributions within southeast Michigan.

Ilitch has focused her philanthropic work on women and children, whom she believes are still under-served populations. She uses her business acumen and entrepreneurial spirit as an ambassador to those who face an illness or other crisis. Ilitch is the president of the board of directors for Kids Kicking Cancer in Detroit, a board member at Starfish Family Services, chairman of the Democratic Women's Leadership Forum, and serves on the board of directors for Nstar Community Bank. Additionally, Ilitch has founded or co-founded several of her own charitable organizations and businesses such as the Lovelight Foundation, an organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of impoverished families, Ilitch Charities for Children (ICC), the Atanas Ilitch Osteosarcoma Foundations, and the establishment of an on-site day care center for employees of Little Caesars Enterprises, Fox Tots.

Besides serving as publisher of *Ambassador Magazine*, Ilitch is president of Ilitch Enterprises, owner of Denise Ilitch Designs, and Of Counsel in Clark Hill PLC's Business and Government Policy practice groups.

Ilitch will be presented this award by Red Cross board chair Freman Hendrix and chief executive officer Jim Laverty during the upcoming Hero Awards where 10 other honorees from all walks of life will receive their awards.

About the Hero Awards

The *Red Cross Hero Awards* will be on Thursday evening, March 27 at the Somerset Inn in Troy with honorary chair Dennis W. Archer, chairman of Dickinson Wright PLLC. This year the event will include a fabulous silent auction. Guest tickets are \$75 which includes guest reception, dinner and valet. Patron tickets are \$125 which includes valet, a patron reception and dinner. The private patron reception is at 6:00 p.m. while the guest reception is at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit local disaster relief and military family services provided by the American Red Cross –

Southeastern Michigan Chapter. Seats can be reserved by calling (313) 833-2641 or online at www.detroitredcross.org.

The *Red Cross Hero Awards* are presented by General Motors and OnStar by GM, with support from the Chrysler Foundation, Ford Motor Company Fund, Rock Financial, WJBK-FOX 2, Fifth Third Bank, Henry Ford Health System, Humana, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and *HOUR Detroit* magazine. Sponsorships are still available by calling Monica DeJesus at (313) 833-2632.

About the American Red Cross – Southeastern Michigan Chapter

Your home team Red Cross, the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross is the organization that turns caring into action by providing disaster relief and helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. We are volunteer-driven and reflect the diversity of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. As part of the international Red Cross network, we are dedicated to protecting human life and dignity worldwide. To learn more about the Red Cross, call (313) 833-4440 or log on to www.detroitredcross.org.

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