

Red Cross holds open house at new site

By KANDACE MCCOY

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MT. VERNON — The American Red Cross Mid Southern Illinois Chapter has finally settled in at its new location at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

An open house and ribbon cutting for the chapter's new facility was held Thursday as members of the community were invited to tour the office. Renovations at the Kozaria Terminal were completed last month to create a suite of offices leased by the ARC.

"The American Red Cross is here to provide service to clients who have been through a disaster or in need of assistance," ARC Mid Southern Illinois Chapter Executive Director Cindy May said prior to the ribbon cutting.



Cindy May, American Red Cross Mid Southern Illinois Chapter Executive Director, right, welcomes and directs visitors at an open house for the organization's new location Thursday afternoon at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. KANDACE MCCOY/REGISTER-NEWS

"We're excited to be here. Everything seems to be going well and everyone has made us feel welcome. We're thrilled to be here."

The announcement that the

airport would be leasing space to the local Red Cross chapter was made in June, which was precipitated by the owners of the building at 12th Street and Casey Avenue notifying the Red Cross

it would be putting the property up for sale and not renewing the lease with the organization.

The main area of the terminal has been partitioned off to create the Red Cross suite next to the front doors of the lobby. The organization is leasing about 1,344 square feet in the southwest portion of the building.

"It's a great partnership," remarked airport manager Chris Collins. "The Red Cross is the perfect anchor tenant we were looking for alternative use. We were looking for a way to make the office more efficient for the community and there's no way to say community better than the Red Cross."

The ARC is currently raising
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\$24,000 for its local chapter for disaster relief.

To date, the organization has raised approximately \$3,300, Mays announced.

For more information

about the ARC Mid Southern Illinois Chapter or to make a donation, you may contact the office at 244-2083, or go online at www.jefferson-county.redcross.org.

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