



The American Red Cross Manatee County Chapter Partners with The Center of Anna Maria Island to Keep Our Neighbors Safe.

All Manatee County residents know that when a storm is coming, Anna Maria Island is one of the first places to evacuate. That is just a fact of being in Evacuation Zone A. But what happens after the storm?

Once the high winds die down, most of our island-dwelling neighbors return to their homes. There are times though, that some houses have sustained damage and are uninhabitable. In this instance, residents may need one or two more days to fix what was damaged or to determine what their future living arrangements will be.

In August of 2009 The Center of Anna Maria Island signed a Post Sheltering agreement with the American Red Cross Manatee County Chapter. That doesn't mean The Center will be a shelter during storms....the island is still an evacuation zone! But what it does mean is that after the storm when the main disaster shelters close, the Red Cross and the Community Center can open as a post-disaster shelter to give residents a bit more time to begin their recovery. Host shelters are a short term solution- a place where residents can have meals and a roof over their heads.

“The Manatee County Chapter is proud to have a partnership with The Center of Anna Maria Island,” said Erin Craig, Red Cross Emergency Services Director, “The Center’s facility is the perfect place to open a post-disaster shelter, should one be needed after a storm or a small local disaster.” Shelters can also be used when only some areas/locations are affected- for evacuees from an apartment home fire, for example.

This agreement makes The Center of Anna Maria Island the first American Red Cross post-disaster Shelter on Anna Maria Island.

American Red Cross Manatee County Chapter
www.flwestcoastredcross.org

The Center of Anna Maria Island
www.CenterAMI.org