



Boy Scout Troop 353 – Eastchester, NY

Westchester Putnam Council
<http://troop353.wordpress.com>
www.wpcbsa.org



Daniel Altenau (2008) – For my Eagle Scout project I worked with the American Red Cross (ARC) Westchester Chapter, Disaster Response Group to organize their supplies at their headquarters in White Plains, NY and to set up a system of keeping inventory up to date. I worked with Dan Iradi, Director of Response and Andrea Grimaldi, Volunteer Management Director. The ARC Westchester Chapter had a couple of rooms in their basement, 2 shelter trailers, and two vehicles that needed organization. We built & installed shelving units to save space and keep important supplies at least 2ft above ground in case of flooding. The two shelter trailers are response trucks that get sent to an area in crisis. They had their supplies removed and reorganized for quick dispersal when they arrive. There are also some items that cannot be stored on them during the winter, such as toiletry sets, because they would freeze. These items therefore were stored inside, but in a quickly accessible location to be placed on the trucks.

Both the ARC Westchester Chapter and the people it serves in Westchester County benefited from this project in many ways. The organization of the ARC Westchester Chapter emergency supplies has been improved dramatically, by creating more room for them to store materials, and, importantly, it has also improved the efficiency of ARC's response times during a crisis. These emergency supplies also needed to be protected from the environment. By reorganizing the supplies into proper storage, damage and loss of supplies over time has been reduced significantly. This project immediately helped the ARC Westchester Chapter by organizing and cataloging their supplies. Victims of future disasters in Westchester County also should benefit by being helped in a quicker, more effective way. Finally, this project also established a strong working relationship between Troop 353 and the ARC Westchester Chapter, which has the potential to yield multiple ongoing benefits to the ARC Westchester Chapter, the greater Westchester County community, and to Troop 353 in future years.