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**MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TRAINED TO ASSIST GEORGIA FAMILIES  
POST DISASTER**

**ATLANTA, Ga. – October 2, 2015** - In an effort to effectively address the basic and emotional needs of individuals and families in the wake of a disaster, Red Cross of Georgia administered an in-depth training to thirty mental health professionals practicing in the state.

“It is critically important that Georgia have a trained cadre of Disaster Mental Health workers to be able to respond to the survivors of disasters when they need psychological support,” says Dr. Betsy Gard, a psychologist and manager in the Red Cross Mental Health System.

In 2014, Red Cross of Georgia responded to over 3,000 local disasters and provided food, shelter, health and emotional support to nearly 3,900 families in Georgia alone. Red Cross of Georgia recognized a need for mental health professionals to respond to these disasters, therefore they designed a comprehensive one-day training called “Done in a Day.”

“Done in a Day” is a nine hour in-depth training that would equip mental health workers with the skills and knowledge needed to address the many challenges faced by families in the face of disaster.

This event was held in Athens, Georgia on August 14, 2015. The training was sponsored by the Georgia Psychological Association, Red Cross of Georgia, Athens Area Psychological Association, and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

To learn more about the Georgia Psychological Association visit [www.gapsychology.org](http://www.gapsychology.org) and follow @gapsychasn on Twitter.

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*Since 1946, the Georgia Psychological Association has been heralded as a leader in advocacy, a pacesetter for public education programming, a provider of quality continuing education opportunities and a proponent for the livelihood of psychology. Our referral network not only assists members, but provides the public-at-large the opportunity to connect with psychologists. The membership of the Association is comprised of psychologists, graduate and undergraduate students across the state of Georgia.*