

RED NEWS

American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter ■ Emergency Services ■ Spring, 2007 ■ Volume 3 Issue 2

“I believe the business community with its vast resources feels a responsibility to contribute to disaster relief, not only with money and products but with its greatest resource—hard working, and dedicated people. Disasters affect all of us; businesses aren't immune. We must use our resources to become active participants in creating the solution.”

**—Richard L. Keyser,
CEO of Grainger**



Nancy Bates

Ready When the Time Comes Kicks Off in St. Louis

New program recruits volunteers from local businesses to respond in times of disaster



On May 5, the St. Louis Area Chapter is launching an exciting new program called *Ready When the Time Comes*.

This program is designed to tap into the organization and manpower resources of American businesses to create a **corps of volunteers** that can be mobilized during an emergency. The program was created by the Red Cross and is led by **Grainger**, who donated **\$1 million** to roll out the program across the country. We are very excited about this program and we think it offers a great way for businesses to rally their employees for the good of the community.

To date we have three of St. Louis' largest corporations committed to this endeavor. **Anheuser-Busch** is leading the way, followed by **Citigroup** and **State Farm**. These corporations will allow their employees to receive free disaster relief training from the Red Cross. Then when disasters strike, the corporate partners make their trained employees available to

respond to local emergencies as Red Cross disaster services volunteers.

What does this mean for St. Louis, our Chapter and for you? Currently, we have over 1,000 volunteers trained in sheltering, mass care, client assistance, logistical support, and a multitude of day-to-day Chapter operations.



Grainger Chairman and CEO, Dick Keyser and American Red Cross CEO Jack McGuire chat with volunteers in Illinois as Grainger announces its \$1 million contribution and National Founding Sponsorship of the *Ready When the Time Comes* corporate volunteer program.

Ready When the Time Comes provides an additional force of trained volunteers ready to respond to disasters at a moment's notice. These volunteers will look to you, our experienced volunteers, for guidance.

Stay tuned! We will have more details in this ever-expanding program this spring and summer. The St. Louis Area Chapter is poised to once again, raise our level of disaster readiness and response. Thank you in advance for your support. ■

Nancy Bates

Executive Officer, Emergency Services



St. Louis Area Chapter

Department of Homeland Security Online Training Available Through April 30

Sign up today to be a part of this pilot program

In our last edition of *Red News*, we invited you to participate in weapons of mass destruction and terrorism related online disaster courses created by the **Department of Homeland Security** and supported by the American National Red Cross. If you have completed these online courses, we thank you for your time and we hope you have learned how human-caused disasters can affect the services the Red Cross provides.

If you have not yet taken the online training and are interested, **it's not too late**. Volunteers have until **April 30** to complete the training. There are a total of **six courses**, each requiring 1-2 hours or your time. For your convenience, they may be stopped and started at any point to allow you to complete them at your leisure. As always, there is no cost to participate in these training courses, just a willingness to learn and access to a computer. ■

To get started, please log on to <http://dhs-ngo-pilot.org> today. Questions? Contact **Stephanie Landess** at 314.516.2756 or email Stephanie at slandess@redcrossstl.org.



Each year over **60,000 people** participate in community disaster education workshops and a majority of the participants are children. Over the years we have received thousands of thank you letters from children grateful to have learned important lifesaving lessons from volunteers like you. Here are a few recent messages:

Thank you for teaching us. I learned that earthquakes are dangerous. I learned that you should duck and cover. I learned that you should hide under a table and hold on to a leg. I learned that if you are outside and an earthquake goes on you should stay away from electric poles.

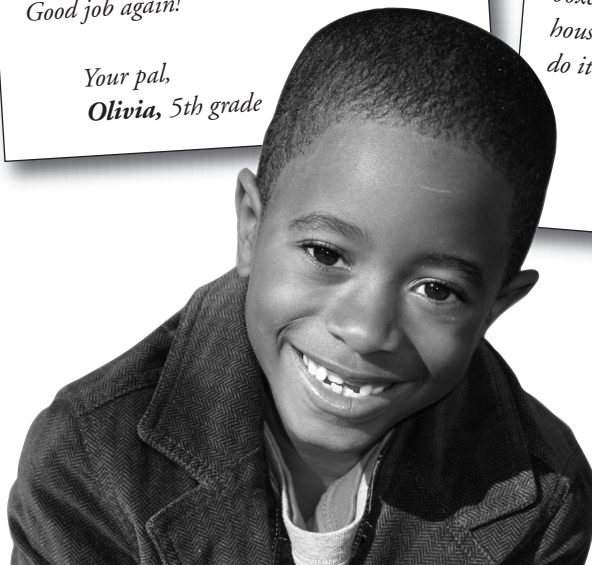
*Your friend,
Jack, 5th grade*

You did a great job on your assembly. Good job!!!! I did not know that you should stop, get under something heavy, and hang on tight. Thank you for teaching me about earthquakes. Good job again!

*Your pal,
Olivia, 5th grade*

Thank you for teaching us about fire safety! Me and my family already have a plan: to go out to the mail boxes. They are REALLY far from my house. I had a ton of fun. We should do it again.

*Your friend,
Jennifer, 5th grade*



New Time Requirements for DSHR Volunteers

The St. Louis Area Chapter wants you to take action



Recently, the American National Red Cross changed the deployment time requirements for Disaster Services Human Resources (DSHR) volunteers. The change was made to accommodate volunteers who are interested in DSHR but cannot commit to a full three week deployment. The new time commitment is a minimum of **three days**.

For example, the three recent power outages in the St. Louis area were classified as national disasters requiring the assistance of DSHR volunteers. Since much of the relief work was accomplished in one week's time, DSHR volunteers were not deployed for the normal three week interval. Due to the shorter time frame and the location of the disaster, more local DSHR members were available to assist.

Ultimately, the Red Cross wants all disaster volunteers to register with the DSHR system so that in the event of future **local disasters**, the Chapter has a large

pool of trained volunteers ready to assist as their schedule permits.

We will work with you to provide the training and guidance for this new and exciting volunteer opportunity.

What do we need from you? Simply a willingness to help if something happens locally. ■

Please contact **Jeannie Edington** for information on how to become a DSHR member. She can be reached at 314.516.2762 or by email at redington@redcrossstl.org.

Red Cross Youth Serve as Disaster Action Team Volunteers

Youth work side-by-side with adult volunteers to assist in disaster relief

Inspiring a new generation of volunteers is one of the highest priorities for the American Red Cross, and youth have an important role in delivering Red Cross programs and services on behalf of the St. Louis Area Chapter.

Recently, 13 YouthCorps members joined the Chapter's Disaster Action Team (DAT) and are now providing immediate assistance at the scene of disasters—including food, clothing and shelter. YouthCorps DAT members include **Bharat Anant, Aaron Chunn, Sam Fok, Vaishnavi Hariprasad, Adee Heiman, Alyce Kanabrocki, Kayci Merritte, Ariana Mooradian, David Oldroyd, Will Perry, Amit Shintre, Liv Witkowski** and **Albert Zheng**.

"These volunteers have completed orientation and are now full-fledged DAT members," said **Becky White**, disaster specialist for the St. Louis Area Chapter. "They are doing an amazing

job, and we are so glad to have them as part of the team."

Will Perry, 19, has been a Red Cross YouthCorps volunteer for the past four years. Will discovered his interest in the Disaster Action Team during a recent Red Cross presentation highlighting emergency services. He says the experience has significantly changed his outlook.

"When you experience DAT, you experience real people and real emotion—you see it first hand," said Will. "Before, I didn't associate a face with a fire, and I never thought something like that could happen to me or someone I know. The Disaster Action Team changed that."

Several disaster responses are especially memorable for Will. In one situation, Will was amazed at how grateful a family was to receive Red Cross services, and how they went out of their way to show kindness despite having lost everything to fire. He also remembers a 10-year old child who received Red Cross assistance, including

new shoes, after escaping barefoot from his burning home.

"Working shoulder-to-shoulder with adult volunteers is the best way to engage youth in the Red Cross mission," said **Drenda Underwood**, school curriculum specialist for the St. Louis Area Chapter. "Serving as a member of the Disaster Action Team is a great way for young adults to experience what the Red Cross does every day." ■

*If you are interested in joining a Disaster Action Team and you are over the age of 14, contact **Stephanie Landess** at 314.516.2756*



Ariana Mooradian

Liv Witkowski

Will Perry

St. Louis Area Chapter Helps Nearly 1,200 Disaster Victims and 4,200 Emergency Responders Over Three Months

Thank you to the DAT volunteers who answered the call to serve

Red Cross Disaster Action Teams, (DAT) experienced a busy quarter, responding to 344 incidents throughout the metropolitan area over a three month period. This represents a 25% increase in the number of responses over the same period last year. Volunteers and caseworkers provided immediate food, clothing and shelter, meeting the needs of 1,181 disaster victims and supporting 4,207 emergency responders on the scene.

"While our Chapter was responding in the wake of two severe winter storms, unrelated daily emergencies required a lot of teamwork and attention from our

DAT volunteers," said **Mary Anderson**, director of disaster preparedness and response. "I want to personally thank each volunteer for their willingness to step forward and lend a hand whenever and wherever it was needed."

In addition to the many single-family house fires, Disaster Action Teams were on the scene during the following situations:

- **Chemical spill** (Metro East)
- **Building collapse** (Franklin County, MO)
- **Overtaken school bus** (Jefferson County)
- **Two homes damaged by car accidents** (St. Louis)

- **Roof collapse** (St. Louis)
- **Passengers stranded at Greyhound Bus Terminal** (St. Louis)

"During meetings with our community partners, I continually receive feedback regarding the dependability of Red Cross volunteers who demonstrate compassion throughout the community," said Mary. "It is a privilege to serve with each of you." ■

*If you are interested in joining a Disaster Action Team, contact **Stephanie Landess** at 314.516.2756.*



Get Informed About Spring Weather

Learn what you can do to prepare for tornados

As the temperature rises and we approach the summer months, it's important to be prepared for severe weather emergencies *before* meteorologists warn of impending weather. When you know what to do, it's easy to make informed, rational decisions when every second counts.

Here are some quick and important tips on tornado safety:

Common Tornado Warning Signs

- Dark, often greenish sky.
- Wall cloud, an isolated lowering of the base of a thunderstorm.
- Large hail. Tornados frequently emerge near the hail producing portion of the storm.
- Cloud of debris. An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible.
- Funnel cloud. A visible rotating extension of the cloud base is a sign that a tornado may develop.
- Roaring noise. The high winds of a tornado can cause a roar that is often compared with the sound of a freight train.

- Tornados may occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado. They may also be embedded in rain and not visible at all.

Prepare a Home Tornado Plan

- Pick a place where family members could gather if a tornado is headed your way. It could be your basement or, if there is no basement, a center hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest floor.
- If you are in a high-rise building, you may not have enough time to go to the lowest floor. Pick a place in a hallway in the center of the building.

Stay Tuned for Storm Warnings

- Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.
- Know the difference between a tornado WATCH and WARNING:
 - A tornado WATCH means a tornado is possible in your area.

- A tornado WARNING means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area. Go to safety immediately.

When a Tornado WATCH is Issued:

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for further updates.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions.

When a Tornado WARNING is Issued:

- If you are inside, go to the safe place you picked to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects.
- If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety (as above). ■

For more information on weather emergencies or to schedule a FREE disaster preparedness presentation for your group, call your local service center.

We Hope to See You on Saturday April 21!



In honor of you, Red Cross volunteers, and in celebration of our 90 year history in St. Louis, the St. Louis Area Chapter will host a fun-filled evening at the **Gateway Arch**. This exciting event is made possible thanks to the generosity of our corporate partners.

We hope to see you there! ■

*If you did not receive an invitation to the Red Cross Volunteer Celebration and you were a registered volunteer prior to March 1, 2007, please call **Joanne Buttice** at 314.516.2876.*





Got Training?

Sign up today for free disaster training

Are you interested in earning additional training certifications? As always, volunteers can enroll **free of charge** in Red Cross disaster courses. Listed below are all basic-level courses required of Disaster Action Team (DAT) and Shelter Team volunteers. DAT Orientation schedules are available through your individual Service Centers. *Remember to sign up early.*

Course Name	Date	Time
Fundamentals of Disaster Assessment (Part 2)	Fri 4/27	6-10p*
Shelter: Operations & Simulation	Fri 4/27	8a-5p
Weapons of Mass Destruction / Terrorism: Overview	Fri 4/27	6-10p
Client Casework: Providing Emergency Assistance	Sat 4/28	8a-5p
Defensive Driving	Sat 4/28	8a-12p
Fulfilling our Mission (Prerequisite for all courses)	Sat 4/28	8a-12p
Logistics: Overview & Simulation	Sat 4/28	8a-5p
ERV: Ready, Set, & Roll (Part 2: Driving)	Sat 5/5	9a-12p
Client Casework: Providing Emergency Assistance	Sat 5/12	8a-5p
Fundamentals of Disaster Assessment (Part 2)	Wed 5/16	2-6p*
Fulfilling our Mission (Prerequisite for all courses)	Th 5/24	6-10p
Shelter: Operations & Simulation	Sat 6/2	8a-5p
Weapons of Mass Destruction / Terrorism: Overview	Tues 6/19	12p-4p
Fulfilling our Mission (Prerequisite for all courses)	Th 6/21	1-5p

* The new format of the Disaster Assessment course requires an online portion to be completed prior to the classroom portion. Please allow 3-4 hours for the online course content. If you do not have access to a computer, check with your local Service Center or library.

All classes are held at Chapter Headquarters, 10195 Corporate Square, Creve Coeur, MO 63132 ■

To register, or for questions please call **Jeannie Edington** at 314.516.2762 or e-mail Jeannie at redington@redcrossstl.org.

Getting Trained Just Got Easier

New online and self-study options now available

Are you interested in completing Red Cross disaster training courses but are having a difficult time fitting them into your busy schedule? We have a new option for you. In addition to our regularly scheduled classroom courses, the St. Louis Area Chapter has added more **self-study** and **online options**. This flexibility allows you to take courses at your own pace and from the comfort of your own home.

The following courses are conducted in a **self-study** format. Course materials are available at your local Service Center:

- **Disaster Health Services: An Overview** (for currently licensed health care providers)
- **Disaster Mental Health: An Overview** (for currently licensed mental health providers)
- **ERV: Ready, Set and Roll** (Part 1

of 2; driving portion must be completed before certificate is awarded)

- **Financial & Statistical Information Management** (Prerequisite: Client Casework)
- **Mass Care: An Overview** (Prerequisite: Fulfilling our Mission)

The following courses are available **online** and can be completed in 1-4 hours:

- **Client Assistance Cards: Caseworkers** (Prerequisite: Client Casework)
- **Client Assistance Cards: Financial & Statistical Information** (Prerequisite: Client Casework)
- **Fundamentals of Staff Services** (Prerequisite: Fulfilling Our Mission)
- **Introduction to Disaster Services Logistics During a WMD/T Incident** (Prerequisites: Logistics: Overview & Simulation, WMD/T Overview)



Volunteer, **Susan Clark**, found the online training to be both thorough and interesting.

“The material was completely new to me so I appreciated the ability to review, start and stop at any point along the way. Working at my own pace allowed me to master the material.”

- **Preparing for & Managing a Spontaneous Volunteer Workforce** (Prerequisites: Fulfilling our Mission, Fundamentals of Staff Services) ■

For more information, please contact **Jeannie Edington** at 314.516.2762 or email Jeannie at redington@redcrossstl.org.

Brittany Schumacher Earns Jefferson County Volunteer of the Year Award

Dedicated volunteer honored for her service



Brittany Schumacher became a Red Cross volunteer shortly after moving to Missouri in 2003. She was

already familiar with the Red Cross and thought becoming a volunteer would be a great way to connect with her new community.

“Since day one Brittany has been an active leader,” says **Omar Ruiz**, supervisor of the Jefferson County Service Center. “She is a CPR, First Aid and AED Instructor, a Disaster Action Team Leader and she does just about anything else we throw her way.”

Recently, Brittany was awarded the **Jefferson County Volunteer of the Year Award**, the highest award given annually to Jefferson County volunteers. “The award was a big surprise,” she says. “It made me feel good to know that my team members

thought I was doing a good job.” The award ceremony was held the day a powerful windstorm tore through the Greater St. Louis area. “The day after the ceremony I worked at a shelter for people who lost electricity,” she says.

In May, Brittany will complete her paramedic degree, a goal she has been

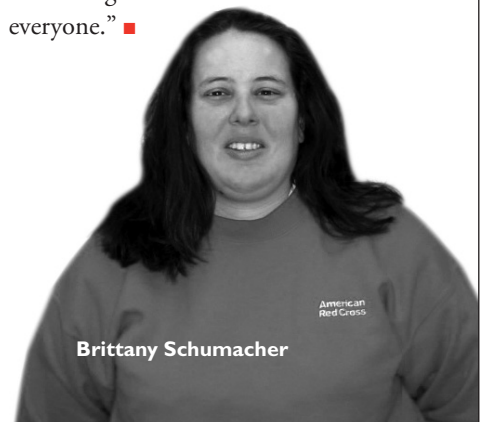
“When I’m on the scene of a fire helping a family cope with the loss of their home, seeing them realize that everything is going to be okay—that’s the biggest reward.”

—Brittany Schumacher

steadily working towards for the last year. Brittany credits her professional background as an EMT and paramedic with her passion for teaching Red Cross Health and Safety courses. “I enjoy seeing the light bulbs come on in my students,” she says.

When she is not volunteering, Brittany is up in the clouds—literally. She has her pilot’s license and takes to the skies three to four times each month. “It’s a thrill,” she says.

Brittany’s words of advice for new volunteers are to explore all the volunteer opportunities available. “There is so much you can do at the Red Cross,” she explained. “It’s not just about giving blood or responding to fires. There are many different functions. If you are just starting out with the Red Cross or if you are thinking of volunteering, there truly is something for everyone.” ■



Brittany Schumacher

Take a Red Cross Trivia Quiz

Enter to win a Home and Travel First Aid Kit

Congratulations to **Don Barkley!** Don correctly answered our last Red News quiz question:

Q: How often should you renew your Red Cross CPR certification?

A: Every 12 months.

Here is your next opportunity to win! ▶

QUESTION:
Is the American Red Cross a government agency?

Send your answer to **Stephanie Landess** at slandess@redcrossstl.org or 314.516.2756 and you will be entered to win a Home and Travel First Aid Kit— a \$25 value! ■



Don Barkley



St. Louis Area Chapter



Red Cross Welcomes 28 New Volunteers

More hands on deck to serve the St. Louis area

Volunteers are the heart of the American Red Cross. We depend on **1.4 million volunteers** nationwide and more than **1,300** in the Greater St. Louis area to carry out our mission as the world's leading humanitarian relief agency. Thank you for giving so generously of your time.

Name	Service Center	Job
Kelly Battley	Headquarters	AFES
Kristy Baumgart	St. Charles Co.	CDE
Janet Benne	St. Charles Co.	CDE
Al Boucher	Metro East	DAT
Donna Davis	Headquarters	CDE
Kameisha Davis	St. Charles Co.	CDE
Becky Donley	Headquarters	DAT
Rev. William Engfehr III	Headquarters	ESC
Viveka Ferrell	Metro East	DAT
Sheila Harris-Wheeler	St. Charles Co.	DAT/CDE
Sandy Holt	Headquarters	DAT
Kris Johnson	Headquarters	CDE
Jessica Koester	St. Charles Co.	DAT
Pat Lemley	Headquarters	DAT

Name	Service Center	Job
Jennifer Morgan	Headquarters	DAT
Sarah Oldham	Headquarters	DAT
Ramey Pannell	St. Charles Co.	DAT
Beth Revell	Metro East	CDE
Jessica Ruhl	St. Charles Co.	CDE
Terry Sanders	Headquarters	DAT
Elizabeth Schasteen	Headquarters	CDE
Curtis Simpson	Headquarters	DAT
Hope Smith	Headquarters	DAT
Tammy Smith	St. Charles Co.	DAT
Steve Swift	Headquarters	DAT
Michelle Van Der Beck	Headquarters	DAT
Donna Whitlow	Metro East	DAT
Hope Woodson	St. Charles Co.	CDE

AFES = Armed Forces Emergency Services
 CDE = Community Disaster Education
 DAT = Disaster Action Team
 ESC = Emergency Services Committee

Funding Provides Vital Emergency Services to the Community

Special thanks to these corporations, foundations and agencies for their support of the Red Cross:

- Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.
- Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis
- Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation, Inc.
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Enterprise Bank
- Franklin County Area United Way
- Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation
- Midwest BankCentre
- Monsanto Fund
- Offield Family Foundation
- State Farm Insurance Companies
- Target
- U.S. Bancorp
- United States Steel Foundation
- W.W. Grainger, Inc.
- Westerner Charity Club/Olin Capital Grant Committee of the Southwest Illinois Division of the United Way
- William T. Kemper Foundation

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American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter

Any feedback? Like additional copies of Red News?

Please email slandess@redcrossstl.org or call Emergency Services



at 314.516.2756. Red News is published quarterly by the American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter.

Sneak Preview of our Next Edition

Pets need to be prepared for emergencies, too

Learn what you can do to prepare your furry family members for emergencies and disasters.





American Red Cross
St. Louis Area Chapter

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St. Louis, MO 63132
www.redcrossstl.org
314.516.2800

The American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

**American Red Cross
St. Louis Area Chapter Program Sites:**

- Jefferson County Service Center
- Metro East Service Center
- St. Charles County Service Center
- Scott Air Force Base Service Center



United Way
of Greater St. Louis
United Way Member Agency

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PERMIT NO. 5344

New Emergency Supply Kits Now Available

Get a kit for each member of your family or give a kit as a gift



By popular request, the Red Cross has recently added four new emergency supply kits to its cadre of disaster supplies. Each kit is designed to sustain **one person for 72 hours** during an emergency. If you don't have a kit, now is the time to order. Make sure everyone in your family has their own kit in an easy to access location. ■

To order an emergency supply kit, call **314.516.2740** or stop by Chapter Headquarters today. Be sure to ask for special volunteer pricing!



Prices do not include shipping.