

RED NEWS

American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter ■ Emergency Services ■ Spring, 2008 ■ Volume 4 Issue 2

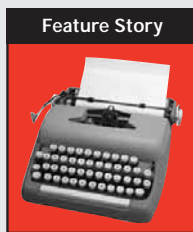


"It is our pleasure to announce the American National Red Cross' plans to adopt the Ready Rating Program as a national model. We're starting the process right here in St. Louis. We believe this program is an excellent way to not only prepare businesses, organizations, and schools, but to provide a channel for emergency preparedness information to permeate to the individual."

—Kevin Brown,
Chief Operating Officer
American National Red Cross

New Ready Rating™ Program Launches in St. Louis

Red Cross leading the way in preparing the nation for emergencies



According to a recent poll, an overwhelming majority of St. Louisans want businesses, organizations and schools to prepare for emergencies. But getting prepared can be a daunting task. Faced with many responsibilities, you may be wondering—where should we begin?

The Red Cross has the answer.

On February 28, the St. Louis Area Chapter launched the **Red Cross Ready Rating™ Program**, a first-of-its-kind program designed to help businesses, organizations and schools prepare for emergencies by following **specific criteria** and **clear, actionable steps** outlined in an easy-to-use **web-based tool**. To join this groundbreaking program, members commit to

improving their readiness over the course of a calendar year and the Red Cross is prepared to help every step of the way.

The Ready Rating Program was created by the St. Louis Area Chapter and is funded by a **\$250,000** donation from

Anheuser-Busch Companies, the program's founding sponsor and charter member. This donation helps to kick off the program in St. Louis with the goal of taking the program nationwide in the next few years. As a member of the Anheuser-Busch team, I can tell you, we are excited about this program and we think it sets the Red Cross on a path to becoming the go-to organization for emergency preparedness.

What does this mean for St. Louis, our Chapter, and for you? The recent passage of Congress' Private-Sector Preparedness Act sends a clear message about the ever-growing need for not just our government to be ready but for our local communities, businesses and organizations to be ready as well. A 2007 community task force report led by **FOCUS St. Louis** identified emergency preparedness as a top priority for the St. Louis community. And now, the Ready Rating Program is here to teach all of us how to become better-prepared for emergencies. Are you ready to do your part? To make this program a success, we need your support.

I encourage you to visit readyrating.redcrossstl.org to learn more about this exciting new endeavor. ■

Dave Peacock
St. Louis Area Chapter Board Member and VP of Marketing, Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

To read more about the new Ready Rating Program, turn to page 6.

Red Cross Ready Rating™ Program



ANHEUSER  BUSCH
Founding Sponsor Companies



Dave Peacock



St. Louis Area Chapter

Widespread Spring Flooding Affects Missouri

Red Cross volunteers answer the call to help their neighbors

After days spent sandbagging, packing up valuables and moving to higher ground, residents along numerous Missouri rivers watched on Saturday, March 22, as the volatile waterways neared record levels. Rivers, streams and creeks engulfed hundreds of homes, threatened to overwhelm Interstate 44 and caused several fatalities. Many residents in the flood plane were left to worry what they would come home to when the water finally receded.

In response, the St. Louis Area Chapter launched its first major disaster relief effort of the year. More than **130 Red Cross volunteers and staff** from the St. Louis Area Chapter staffed **three shelters** and served over **3,200 meals and snacks** to neighbors in need.

“This relief operation was well executed thanks to the volunteers and staff who dedicated their time and expertise,” said **Nancy Bates**, executive officer of Emergency Services. “We’re relieved that the flooding was not as extensive as originally predicted but we were prepared for the worst.”

Denise and Walt Wallheimer were quick to volunteer their services. They used the Chapter’s emergency response vehicle to deliver hundreds of meals and clean-up kits to flood victims. While driving from the Red

Cross warehouse in St. Louis City to the Red Cross shelters in Ballwin, Pacific and Cedar Hill, the two were surprised by how fast the waters surged. “We were driving on Highway 141 minutes before it closed,” said Denise.

Red Cross volunteers **Jerry Lambing** and **Charlie Meyer** conducted dozens of disaster assessments in Cedar Hill, Valley Park, Eureka and Pacific. The two surveyed homes that were submerged in 12 to 36 inches or more of water. “Thankfully, many people heeded the warnings and evacuated their furniture and valuables before the water rose,” said Jerry. “Several people we talked with commended the city officials for issuing warnings two days in advance. People seemed to be prepared.”

Not everyone in the flooded area left their homes. Long-time Red Cross volunteer **Judy Jehling** helped her daughter, who was eight months pregnant at the time, pack up her furniture and valuables while Judy’s son-in-law stayed behind to protect the house. “They had just moved into the house three months ago, and they were very concerned when the creek behind their house overflowed its banks.” Judy explained. “Luckily, it stopped when it got to the foundation of the house. They didn’t get any water inside.”

Quick Facts as of March 31, 2008	Missouri	St. Louis Area
Meals and Snacks	12,500	3,200
Clean-Up Kits	2,560	366
Overnight Stays in Shelters	409	14
Families Assisted	496	118
Value of Assistance	\$306,607	\$33,570



Despite the widespread damage, volunteer Jerry Lambing was inspired by the people he encountered. “This assignment gives me new faith in the human race,” said Jerry. “People were really helping each other. I saw 1,000 volunteers in Festus sandbagging, and people in Pacific were helping each other load trucks and move furniture. Spirits were high. I talked to one guy whose home flooded and he said to me, ‘what the heck, I wanted new carpet!’ People were helping each other get through it. It was heartwarming.” ■

*If you would like to volunteer for the Disaster Services Human Resources team, please call **Jeannie Edington** at 314-516-2762.*



More Than 130 Volunteers and Staff Assisted with the Missouri Flood Relief Efforts

The Red Cross provided swift aid thanks to an outpouring of support

The Red Cross thanks more than **130 volunteers and staff** who came to the community's aid following the March floods. Thank you also to the countless number of volunteers who assisted with day-to-day chapter operations.

Mary Agnew*	Ann Christmas	Phyllis Hahn	Robert Murphy	Patsy Smothers
Mary Anderson	Sharon Colantonio	Elaine Hegel	Amizetta Neiser	Jean Smyth
Dave Armstrong*	Doug Coleman*	Steven Helwig*	Mike Nester*	Sandy Soll
Susan Armstrong*	Larry Conant	Justo Hernandez*	Martin Nether ton*	Ralph Spiker
James Baker	Joy Cooper-Presson	Courtney Hinton	Patti Nippe	John Stamelos
Barbara Barbato	Laura Coughlin*	Nicole Holtgrefe	Donna Null	Gladys Stannard
Donald Barkley	Doug Crook*	Roland Jackson	Tammy O'Hara	Dorothy Staples
Richard Barnett	Janet Crowley	Scott Jannings	Jim Orling	Edna Steele*
Nancy Bates	Linda Culver	Judy Jehling	Sue Ostien	Bessie Theodorou
Carol Beck	Rita Determan	Summer Grace Joo	Donna Peters	Clyde Thomas*
Tom Becker	Barbara Dierstein	Teena Kilo	Kimberly Pratt	Lumbia Tolliver
Norm Bellairs	Tony Doerrer*	Joan Knappenberger	Eric Primm*	Mark Vandiver*
Wanda Bellairs	Jeannie Edington	Kirby Kraft*	AJ Proffitt	Sandy Vaughn
Connie Bergmann	Beverly Eggering	Annetta Kuechler	Bernie Prucker	Robert Vinluan
Ray Berrong	Dan Faber	Leslie Kumke	Brooke Ray	Jennifer Voelker*
Merle Blundon	Sarah Fadler*	Jerry Lambing	Beverly Relford	Cory Voelker*
Joseph Bollinger	Mike Feltz*	Stephanie Landess	Thomas Richardson	Marian Wallace
Larry Boyer	Craig Fleming	Dallas Leavitt	Jack Riegel	William Wallace
Rachel Bracken	Dan Flippen	Patricia Lee	Omar Ruiz	Denise Wallheimer
Carolyn Bresee	Lois Flippen	Joyce Lepage*	TJ Runge	Walter Wallheimer
Elizabeth Brown	Joseph Fogg	Julia Marsh	Tere Sanchez*	Karen Wamble
Katrina Brown*	Gevaun Frazier	Jen McCarty*	Josh Sappington*	Renee Washington
Crow Brozovich	Alice Gettis	Marcia McDonough*	Tara Sappington*	Becky White
Duane Bruce	Vianeta Grasso*	Molly McHugh	Erik Schenato*	Jessica Willingham
Ed Carty	Donald Griffin	Mark McWilliams	Brittany Schumacher	Michael Wood
Evelyn Chandler	Dennis Gusk	Charlie Meyer	Steve Scott*	LaVerne Worley
		Janie Miller	Janet Sidebottom	
		Melinda Mudrovic	Pam Smith	

*Ready When the Time Comes volunteer.

Four Ready When the Time Comes Partners Assist with Flood Relief Efforts

New program helps the Chapter quickly mobilize volunteers to respond

As the flood waters rose, the St. Louis Area Chapter activated four **Ready When the Time Comes** partners to assist with the relief efforts. Ready When the Time Comes is a **corporate volunteer program** designed to tap into the organization and people-power resources of American businesses to train volunteers who can be quickly mobilized during an emergency.

Thirty employees from **Grainger, Boeing, Citi and Anheuser-Busch**

volunteered at the Chapter's three emergency shelters.

"We are thankful for the opportunity to help our community, and we're fortunate to have an employer that values giving back," said **Clyde Thomas**, of Grainger. "Having worked behind the scenes for four days following the floods, I commend the Red Cross for the work they do day-in-and-day-out to help people in need."

"Corporate partners are integral to the success of a major disaster relief effort,"



said **Nancy Bates**, executive officer of Emergency Services for the Chapter.

"With one phone call, we can activate nearly **200 volunteers** who are Red Cross trained and have the blessing of their employer to leave work in order to volunteer for the Red Cross. It's a wonderful resource for the Chapter and it helps to maintain the wellbeing of our community in times of crisis." ■

To learn more about Ready When the Time Comes, visit www.redcrossstl.org or call **Stephanie Landess** at 314-516-2756.



Thank You



Thank you, volunteers,
for helping the Red Cross
provide relief to citizens in
need following the
Missouri Floods.



While the Chapter responded to the floods, Disaster Action Team volunteers continued to provide relief to fire victims throughout the Greater St. Louis Area. A big thank you to our Disaster Action Team members, and all volunteers who helped the Chapter maintain day-to-day operations.



The New Ready Rating™ Program Sets Precedent in Preparedness

National and community leaders help launch new readiness initiative

On February 28, a press conference at **Anheuser-Busch** corporate headquarters formally launched the new **Red Cross Ready Rating™ Program**. Thanks to Red Cross volunteers and representatives from the **American National Red Cross, Anheuser-Busch, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, St. Louis City and St. Louis County**, the launch was a success and the program is off to a great start.

At the first of two press conferences, Red Cross community partners, media and guests gathered to learn how the Ready Rating Program will help increase the level of preparedness of the St. Louis community.

Joe White, CEO of the St. Louis Area Chapter addressed the audience, sharing the impetus for the new program. “In 2007, an American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter Preparedness Survey revealed that **more than half** of St. Louis-area residents say they **don’t feel prepared** for an every day emergency let alone a catastrophic event. This holds true nationally as well. Yet, **82 percent** of Americans say they would get prepared if only they knew how.

“Our research also highlighted the importance of the **visibility** of prepared-

ness. We found that **75 percent** of St. Louis-area residents said it was important for their employers to be recognized by the American Red Cross for taking steps to become prepared. **50 percent** said it was *extremely* or *very important* to know the same about local stores and businesses where they shop.

“This prompted us to create a program that would 1) Help businesses, organizations, and schools become prepared; 2) Help increase the level of preparedness among individuals; and 3) Increase the level of preparedness for our community overall.”

At the second press conference, more than **20 high school journalists** participated in a unique opportunity to learn first-hand how their voice could be used to call the St. Louis community to action.

Vivian Luce, chair of the Chapter’s Board of Directors, challenged the teens to look at their own level of preparedness. “Does your family have a family disaster plan in the event of a house fire, flood or tornado? Do your parents know where to find you if there is a widespread power



Charles Bryson, director of Public Safety for the City of St. Louis, spoke during the morning press conference alongside fellow speakers (from left to right) Joe White, CEO of the St. Louis Area Chapter, Kevin Brown, COO of the American National Red Cross, Richard Mark, SVP of Missouri Energy Delivery at Ameren UE, Dr. Brian Lane, assistant superintendent of the Mehlville School District, Alfonso Martinez-Fonts, assistant secretary of Private Sector Preparedness for the Department of Homeland Security and Dave Peacock, VP of marketing for Anheuser-Busch.

outage and cell phone towers are down? Could your family shelter in place for three days until help arrived? We want you to answer a resounding ‘yes’ to these questions. And we know that by teaching you important preparedness skills in school, you will go home and share your knowledge with your family.”

Many thanks to the Red Cross volunteers and supporters who helped make the Ready Rating Program launch a success. Look for updates on the program in the coming months. ■

To learn more about the new Ready Rating Program, visit readyrating.redcrossstl.org or call **Brooke Ray** at 314-516-2711.



Vivian Luce, chair of the St. Louis Area Board of Directors, addressed the media at the afternoon press conference.



High school journalists interviewed Alfonso Martinez-Fonts, assistant secretary for Private Sector Preparedness for the Department of Homeland Security.

**Red Cross
Ready Rating™
Program**



Red Cross Assisted over 1,400 Local Disaster Victims and 6,000 Emergency Responders

When cold weather hit, Disaster Action Teams responded to 420 incidents in three months

The Red Cross' mission is to provide relief to victims of disasters and to help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. During the months of December, January and February, St. Louis Disaster Action Team volunteers touched many lives. Please, take a moment to review the responses that took place during this three-month period:

- 420 fire responses
- 6 non-fire responses including:

- One train derailment
- One grass fire
- One building collapse
- One gas leak
- 1,413 disaster victims from 503 families served
- 6,103 emergency personnel canteened

If you are interested in joining a Disaster Action Team, contact **Stephanie Landess** at 314-516-2756.

Coming soon—
an exciting, new way
for volunteers to get
involved! You'll learn
more in the coming
weeks about a *unique
opportunity to
significantly help
the Chapter.*

Stay tuned for
more details.



Are You Trained to Respond to Emergencies?

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. Remember to sign up early because classes can close due to maximum capacity. Most disaster courses have a minimum enrollment of eight participants. Because of this, we ask that you be considerate of others who have registered by arriving to your courses on time. If you need to remove your name from a class roster, **please call or email your cancellation request at least one week prior to the start of the class.**

Refer to the calendar below for the latest course offerings. Please choose the location, date and time that works best for you!

Course Name	Date	Time	Location
Shelter Operations & Simulation	Sat 5/3	9a-6p	Jefferson Co. Service Center
Fulfilling Our Mission	Wed 5/21	7-10p	Jefferson Co. Service Center
Client Casework: PEA (this is a two day course)	Tue 5/27 AND Wed 5/28	6-10p 6-10p	Metro East Service Center OR St. Charles Co. Service Center
Shelter Operations & Simulation (this is a two day course)	Tue 6/17 AND Wed 6/18	6-10p 6-10p	Metro East Service Center
Collaborating to Ensure Effective Service Delivery (this is a two day course)	Fri 6/27 AND Sat 6/28	5:30-10p 9a-6:30p	Chapter Headquarters
*Fundamentals of Staff Services	Fri 6/27	6-7p	Chapter Headquarters
*Spontaneous Vol. Workforce	Fri 6/27	7:30-8:30p	Chapter Headquarters
*Workforce Planning	Fri 6/27	9-10p	Chapter Headquarters
Defensive Driving	Sat 6/28	9a-12n	Chapter Headquarters
Financial & Statistical Info Mgmt	Sat 6/28	1-5:30p	Chapter Headquarters
Logistics Overview & Simulation	Sat 6/28	9a-6p	Chapter Headquarters
Client Assistance Cards: FSI	Sun 6/29	2-5p	Chapter Headquarters

* Also available online.

To register, or for questions please call **Stephanie Landess** at 314.516.2756 or e-mail Stephanie at slandess@redcrossstl.org.



Local Disaster Action Team Volunteer is a Lifesaver

Janie Miller dedicates her time to take care of others



In the summer of 1993, **Janie Miller** was stunned by the news coverage of severe flooding that inundated the St. Louis area, destroy-

ing the homes of hundreds of people. When she saw a Red Cross television appeal for volunteers, Janie immediately picked up the phone and called the St. Louis Area Chapter.

After training as a Red Cross volunteer, Janie received her first assignment as a client services associate. In that position, Janie met face-to-face with families displaced by the flood, assessed their needs and provided food, clothing, and shelter. "I had no idea there were disaster services through the American Red Cross," she said. "After vol-



Janie Miller

unteering during the floods, I discovered that Client Services was my niche and something I had been looking for all my life."

Now, nearly 15 years after the Floods of '93, Janie continues to generously donate her time to the Red Cross in a variety of ways. As a member of the Disaster Action Team (DAT) at Chapter Headquarters, Janie has responded to over **500 fires!** At each fire, Janie makes sure that affected families have immediate access to shelter, food and clothing.

In addition to her Tuesday DAT shifts, Janie volunteers on Christmas day during the midnight to 8 a.m. hours. "I want to make sure others are taken care of during the holiday season," she explained.

What inspires Janie to give so much of her time and of herself? Janie credits her mother for instilling her strong desire to help others. "My mother was the ultimate volunteer," Janie remembered. "She was my role model."

Sadly, Janie's mother passed away this past June. While completing the distressing task of planning a funeral, a close family friend collapsed and her heart stopped beating. Janie and her sister, **Janice Russell**, quickly assessed the situation and

after approximately six cycles of CPR, the friend's pulse returned. Emergency personnel took the friend to the hospital where doctors gave her a clean bill of health. In December 2007, Janie and Janice received **Lifesaver Awards** from the St. Louis Area Chapter for their quick actions.

When asked what her Red Cross training and volunteer experiences mean to her, Janie replied, "the Red Cross trains ordinary people to do extraordinary things. I am so grateful for the opportunity to help people who are facing a difficult time in their lives. It is an honor to be associated with an organization that does so much for so many." ■

"It is an honor to be associated with an organization that does so much for so many."
—Janie Miller



Red Cross volunteers provide the communication link between service men and women stationed around the world and their families back at home. Here is a letter from a family that received help from a local volunteer: ▶

Dear Red Cross,
Recently our father died and we needed your help to contact our brother Tom [a serviceman] stationed in Japan. A gentleman named Bob was able to get our brother home to us in time for the funeral. We also received a follow-up call to make sure things were going okay. Thank you for such a selfless act of kindness. We are all blessed to have such caring people looking out for us.
Sincerely,
The Kohler Family
St. Louis, MO

Dear Red Cross,
On behalf of the Olivette Fire Department, please accept our sincere thank you for your cooperation and support at the recent fire in the 8800 block of Comstock on March 1. I am sure the family appreciated your support with lodging and other needs. Your organization accomplishes many successes and this is just an example of one. Again, thank you for your support!
Sincerely,
Chief Robin Jobe
Olivette Fire Department

◀ More than **1,200 families** lost their homes to fires last year. Here is a letter from a local fire department, thanking Red Cross Disaster Action Team volunteers for their service:

Get Informed About Spring Weather

Learn what you can do to prepare for tornados

Tornado season is upon us and like the March tornado in Atlanta, Georgia demonstrated, tornados can happen anytime, anywhere. Here are some things to keep in mind this spring:

Get a Kit



Make a Plan



Be Informed



Prepare a Home Tornado Plan

■ Choose a place where family members can 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. Keep this place uncluttered.

- 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.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit with the Following Items:

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person per day.
- Protective clothing, bedding, or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members.
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn natural gas service back on.)

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. Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say it sounds like a freight train.

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. The tornado may be approaching your area.
- 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).

After the Tornado Passes:

- Watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of the damaged area.
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions.
- Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage.
- Do not use candles at any time. ■

For copies of American Red Cross Community Disaster Education materials, contact **Julia Marsh** at 314-516-2753 or call your local Service Center.

Be Red Cross Ready
www.redcrossstl.org

Matching the Right Volunteer with the Right Job

St. Louis Area Chapter has over 20 volunteer opportunities

Volunteers often ask, "What opportunities are available for me?" To help answer this question, the St. Louis Area Chapter introduced a new volunteer orientation in January, 2008.

"Red Cross volunteers are the core of our organization," said **Mary Rosen**, director of Volunteer Resources for the Chapter. "By providing an overview of the available volunteer opportunities, we hope to enhance the volunteer experience by matching the right volunteer with the right job."

The orientation also provides an overview of the mission and role of the

Red Cross, community services provided by the St. Louis Area Chapter, and process and benefits of becoming a volunteer.

Although orientation is not mandatory, Mary said, "Because this orientation is specific to the services provided by the St. Louis Area Chapter, **it is valuable for both new volunteers and those with decades of experience.**"

The next orientation is **Wednesday, May 21** from **6-7:15 p.m.** at the St. Louis Area Chapter Headquarters in Creve Coeur. ■

To register for the orientation, please contact **Janet Licklider** at 314-516-2882.



Meet the St. Louis Area Chapter Staff

Get to know the men and women who work alongside volunteers

As the fourth in a series of articles designed to “put a face with a name,” we are pleased to introduce you to the men and women who help operate or support Red Cross Emergency Services. In this edition, we spotlight **Disaster Specialists** and the **AmeriCorps National Preparedness & Response Corps** member from Chapter Headquarters.



Jeannie Edington joined the Red Cross almost 24 years ago as a secretary in the typing pool. Today she's the specialist responsible for the Disaster

Services Human Resources, Health Services and Mental Health Services programs. When asked what she likes most about her job, Jeannie says “working with my Red Cross family, particularly all of the volunteers who give of their time so freely.” When not at work you can usually find Jeannie spending time reading, crafting, or planning parties for her family.



Elaine Hegel

began as a volunteer with the Chapter in the fall of 2005 and soon after became a National Preparedness and Response Corps

member through the AmeriCorps program. Now in her last year of the program, Elaine is working with the Chapter's staff members to improve disaster response. When she's not in the office or on disaster assignment, you can find Elaine enjoying the outdoors by snorkeling, fishing, camping, and canoeing.



Stephanie Landess

a lifelong resident of Ferguson, MO, first came to the Red Cross as a volunteer Lifeguard Instructor with the Health and Safety

department in 2001 and joined the Emergency Services team as a staff member in 2004. Stephanie works with all volunteer applicants to help them become registered volunteers, coordinates the training program, and is responsible for Red News. In her spare time, Stephanie enjoys swimming, working in her vegetable garden, and playing with her dogs.



Jack Reigel

began his tenure with the Red Cross in 2004 as a volunteer. He became a National Preparedness and Response Corps

member in 2005 and transitioned to a staff member in 2006. In his current position, Jack is responsible for the Chapter's Mass Care and Logistics activities, including feeding, sheltering, vehicles, and supplies. In his free time, you can find this St. Louis native traveling to exciting places, competing in a variety of running and bicycling races, or relaxing outdoors.



St. Louis native **Becky White** grew up in Maryland Heights and now lives in Brentwood despite the construction on Highway 40!

Becky (only her mother calls her Rebecca) came to the Red Cross in February, 2005 to manage the St. Louis City/County Disaster Action Team. “It's a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a dedicated and diverse group of volunteers,” she says. When she's not responding to disasters, Becky enjoys spending time with her niece and nephew, camping, reading and shopping. ■



Gary Girshner

Enter to Win a Ready-To-Go Emergency Preparedness Kit!

Submit your answer to the trivia question and you could be our next winner

Congratulations to **Gary Girshner** for correctly answering our last *Red News* quiz question:

Q: How often does the Red Cross recommend that you change the batteries in your smoke detector?

A: Once per year.

Here is your next opportunity to win! ▶

Send your answer to **Stephanie Landess** at 314.516.2756 or e-mail Stephanie at slandess@redcrossstl.org and you will be entered to win a Ready-To-Go Emergency Preparedness Kit—a \$40 value! ■

QUESTION:
Who is the new national Red Cross CEO and what's her background?



Red Cross Welcomes 43 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 **1,500** 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. Please help us welcome the following 43 volunteers who joined the Red Cross between November and March:

Name	Service Center	Job
Laurie Bainter	Headquarters	DAT
Chris Bellers	Headquarters	DAT/DSHR
Gina Brenon	Jefferson Co.	DAT/DSHR
Bob Bubenik	Headquarters	DAT
Leonardo Capotorto	Headquarters	DAT
Ingrid Casillo	St. Charles Co.	DAT/DSHR
Brian Crees	St. Charles Co.	CDE
MaryBeth Davis	St. Charles Co.	DAT/DSHR
Diana Day	Headquarters	CDE
Stacy Dotson	Headquarters	DAT
Brian Evans	Metro East	DAT
Viki Fager	Headquarters	DSHR
Carol Gano	Headquarters	DAT
Chris Grabish	Headquarters	DAT
Rick Grabish	Headquarters	DAT
Larry Helling	Headquarters	DAT
Matt Johnson	St. Charles Co.	DAT
Grace Sunmee Joo	Headquarters	CS/SAF
Allen Kalmar	St. Charles Co.	DAT/DSHR
Bob Klannukarn	Headquarters	DAT/DSHR
Diane Koberna	Metro East	DAT
Roy Koberna	Metro East	DAT

Name	Service Center	Job
Eunice Kopp	Headquarters	CDE
Jennifer Lockwood	Headquarters	DAT
Marv McNeese	Headquarters	SAF
R. Ashley Miller	Headquarters	CS/SAF
Kimberly Musskopf	Metro East	DAT
Olufunke Oluyemi	Headquarters	DAT
Cindy Osborn	Jefferson Co.	DAT
John Osia	Jefferson Co.	DAT
Margot Sickles	Headquarters	DAT
Newton Siegel	Headquarters	DAT
Morenika Somerville	Metro East	DAT
Matthew Stevens	Headquarters	DAT
Abby Stowers	Headquarters	DAT/DSHR
Gloria Ver trees	Headquarters	CDE
J. Larry Ver trees	Headquarters	CDE
Cole Waltermann	St. Charles Co.	DAT
Cynthia Webb	Headquarters	DAT
Susan Weedman	Headquarters	DAT
Donald Williams	Metro East	DAT
LaVerne Worley	Headquarters	DAT
Cathlynn Zehner	St. Charles Co.	DAT/DSHR

CDE = Community Disaster Education
CS = Client Services

DAT = Disaster Action Team
DSHR = Disaster Services Human Resources

SAF = Services to the Armed Forces

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.
- Cardinal Health
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Drury Inns, Inc.
- Edward Jones
- Emerson
- Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis
- Enterprise Bank
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation
- Franklin County Area United Way
- Fru-Con Foundation Trust
- Gertrude and William A. Bernoudy Foundation
- Lohr Distributing Company
- Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation
- Midwest BankCentre
- Monsanto Fund
- Offield Family Foundation
- Pershing Charitable Trust
- Sigma-Aldrich Corporation
- Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation
- State Farm Insurance Companies
- Swift Family Trust
- Target
- Tenet Health Care Foundation, St. Louis University Hospital, Des Peres Hospital
- UniGroup, Inc.
- United Way of Greater St. Louis
- W.W. Grainger, Inc.

RED NEWS

American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter

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St. Louis Area Chapter



American Red Cross
St. Louis Area Chapter

10195 Corporate Square Dr.
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 • 636.464.9150
- Metro East Service Center • 618.397.4600
- St. Charles County Service Center • 636.397.1074
- Scott Air Force Base Service Center • 618.256.1855



United Way Member Agency

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PERMIT NO. 5344

"I learned how to prepare for emergencies during a Red Cross presentation at my school. I shared what I learned with my son, Joe."

—Shelagh Davis,
School Nurse,
Beasley Elementary

"I was home alone when the tornado sirens went off. I didn't panic. I knew what to do."

—Joe Davis, 12
Webster Groves, MO



Support the Red Cross and change a life, starting with your own.

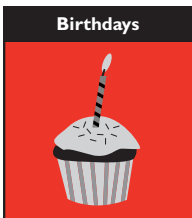
Call the St. Louis Area Chapter at **314.516.2753** to enroll your group in *free* community disaster education courses.

CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS

American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter ■ Emergency Services ■ Spring, 2008 ■ Volume 4 Issue 2

NEWS

St. Louis Area Chapter
10195 Corporate Square
St. Louis, MO 63132
314.516.2800



Happy Birthday

Celebrate and enjoy your day

Bill Young	5/1
Vern Isenberg	5/2
Tiffany Borrine	5/3
Jennie Drag	5/3
Matthew Hegel	5/4
Tahzeeba Hossain	5/5
Mike Redman	5/5
Amy Heidotten	5/8
Kevin Jaskiewicz	5/9
Jim Knappenberger	5/9
James Baker	5/11
Davi Moore	5/14
Jim Oberholz	5/15
Amy Schnurbusch	5/17
Margot Sickles	5/18
Jared Meehan	5/21
Joy Barbre	5/25
Terry Sanders	5/27
Alicia Randles	5/29
Kyle Ladd	5/31
William Spencer	5/31

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After a Busy Winter, Chapter Headquarters Moves Into Spring

Thank you volunteers for your hard work and dedication

By Mary Anderson, Director of Disaster Readiness and Response

As severe weather plagued much of the nation's midsection this winter and spring, volunteers stepped up to the plate, willingly giving hours upon hours of time to carry out the Red Cross mission.

During the months of January and February, Disaster Action Team (DAT) members responded to **201 residential fires**, assisted **189 families (546 individuals)** and provided canteen services to **2,709 emergency responders**. That's more than **three fires per day!** Thank you to the many DAT members who helped these families get back on their feet.

As fire victims call the Chapter to schedule follow-up casework, they continually tell us how grateful they are for the services they received. The Tramble family couldn't stop talking about **Dan** and **Dena Stokes** and the Burton family wanted to thank **Sharon Colantonio** and **Terry Sanders** for their help. These are only a few of the comments of appreciation for our volunteers coming directly

from the people you help. Great job, everyone and keep up the good work!

The Disaster Field Supply Center staff, also known as the warehouse staff, wants to thank the volunteers who assisted with the ongoing cooler consolidation and the supply distribution following the Midwest tornados and floods. Your assistance allowed our center to send **15 trailers** full of disaster relief supplies. Many thanks to **Larry Boyer** (St. Charles Co.), **Crow Brozovich** (Headquarters), **Craig Fleming** (Metro East), **Jim Orling** (Headquarters), **John Rolfes** (St. Charles Co.), **Frank Sharon** (Metro East), **Tulio Vargas** (St. Charles Co.), **Robert Vinluan** (Jefferson Co.), **Denise Wallheimer** (Metro East), **Walt Wallheimer** (Metro East), and **Mike Wood** (Metro East).

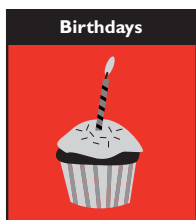
In response to the Central Illinois Floods, **Courtney Hinton** and **Dorothy Staples** deployed in January to Peoria, IL to work in Client Services. One month later, **Ami Neiser**, a registered nurse, deployed to Arkansas as a Health Services volunteer in response to the tornados. Thank you, and know we appreciate everything you do.

Community Disaster Education (CDE) presenters were equally busy during the first months of the year. Volunteer and staff presenters reached **6,077 individuals** through **98 presentations**. That's an average of **62 people** per presentation!

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Left to right: DAT members Dan Stokes, Bill Young and DeAndre Sisson.



Birthdays

continued from front

Joe Wathen	5/31
Glenn Edwards	6/1
Prashant Ramanujan	6/1
Kevin Kirchgessner	6/2
Mary Devine	6/3
Christopher O'Hara	6/3
Bill Feaser	6/5
AJ Proffitt	6/5
JoAnne Tinsley	6/5
Melanie Brown	6/6
Vivian Luce	6/7

Janet Sidebottom	6/7
Rick Stevenson	6/7
Colleen Strohmeier	6/8
Leslie Wilson	6/9
Maria Gonzalez	6/10
Becky Donley	6/11
Erin Sanders	6/11
Angie Thieme	6/11
Robin Shiras-Cody	6/14
Rachel Bracken	6/15
Todd Greenstein	6/15
Sandy White	6/15
Clancy McKay	6/18
Oliver Stevenson	6/19
Patty Lee	6/22
Marv McNeese	6/22
MaryAnn Blanke	6/23
Barbara Dierstein	6/23
Carol Gano	6/25

Sherry LeMaster	6/25
Philip Parker	6/25
Sue Worley	6/26
Deborah Nickens	6/28
Greg Stevens	6/28
Ann Crowley	6/29
Bill Ficklin	6/29
Sara Weiner	6/30
Matthew Stevens	7/1
Lauren Lanier	7/2
Eunice Kopp	7/3
Maple Quinn	7/3
Danielle Gierer	7/5
Cheryl Kirchgessner	7/7
Dorothy Parker	7/7
Dorothy Staples	7/8
Ed Fogarty	7/9
Anita Isenberg	7/9
Adrienne Thomas	7/9

Rosalie Whitfield	7/9
Margaret Swoboda	7/11
Chris Grabish	7/15
Catherine Jackson	7/15
Steve Reiss	7/15
Beth Brown	7/16
Brian Woll	7/16
Elizabeth Schasteen	7/18
Mary Schwarzbauer	7/18
Gladys Smith	7/19
Bob Bubenik	7/20
Gloria Besterfield	7/21
Matthew Stevens	7/21
Heidi Scott	7/22
Aaron Gibson	7/23
Kathy Higgs	7/23
Annie Weder	7/27
Gladys Stannard	7/29
Dennis Foshe	7/31

After a Busy Winter, Chapter Headquarters Moves Into Spring

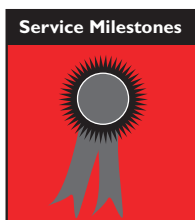
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A huge thanks goes to **Wanda Bellairs, Amy Bonsall, Melanie Brown, Karen Leonard, and Curt Overbey** for their dedication in teaching others about disaster preparedness.

We also want to thank **Harlan Dolgin**, co-chair of PandemicPrep.org and IT service continuity manager of Global Operations for **Reuters America**, for contacting the Chapter to schedule an employee presentation for the entire workforce of Reuters. Over the course of five different sessions we trained more than **900 Reuter America employees in pandemic flu preparedness**. What a great partnership!

While we're on the topic of partnerships, DAT leader **Kirsten Gandenberger** recently became engaged! Kirsten and her fiancé are looking forward to a fall wedding. Congratulations, Kirsten.

In closing, we want our volunteers to know we appreciate everything you do. Thanks for all your hard work and stay safe out there! ■



Service Milestones

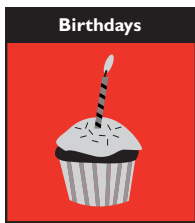
Red Cross Recognizes Service Milestones

Thank you for your years of service!

Name	Start Date	Years of Service	Name	Start Date	Years of Service
Bradley Irwin	5/07	1	Margaret Russell	6/06	2
Prashant Ramanujan	5/07	1	Dena Stokes	6/06	2
Diane Ruezinsky	5/07	1	Melissa Knappenberger	6/05	3
Sharon Colantonio	5/06	2	William Spencer	6/05	3
Donna Peters	5/06	2	Michael Thiemann	6/04	4
Chris Cyr	5/05	3	Barbara Ann Barbato	6/03	5
Scott Grimwood	5/05	3	Robert DuBois	6/03	5
David Morrison	5/05	3	Ed Fogarty	6/02	6
Chuck Banks	5/04	4	Marcia Walker	6/02	6
Gladys Smith	5/03	5	Jennifer O'Hara	6/99	9
Sandra Becker-Warden	5/02	6	Bill Ficklin	6/86	22
Jean Moretto	5/02	6	Tiffany Bommarity	7/07	1
Pam Smith	5/02	6	Barbara Johnson	7/07	1
Rick Stevenson	5/00	8	Jane Mitchell	7/07	1
Allan Ellis	6/07	1	AJ Proffitt	7/07	1
Aaron Gibson	6/07	1	Samia van Hattum	7/07	1
Susan Isenberg	6/07	1	Mick Griffith	7/06	2
Vern Isenberg	6/07	1	Matthew Stevens	7/03	5
Lauren Lanier	6/07	1	Phyllis Oppliger	7/02	6
Michael Laws	6/07	1	Barbara Dierstein	7/01	7
Teresa Roberson-Mullins	6/07	1	Kalesha Edington	7/98	10
Faiza Yasin	6/07	1	Dan Flippen	7/98	10
Joe Bollinger	6/06	2	Lois Flippen	7/98	10
Jim Conley	6/06	2	Jim Moore	7/98	10
Richard Denning	6/06	2	Jane Miller	7/94	14
Catherine Donovan	6/06	2			



Jefferson County
Service Center
3880 Jeffco Boulevard
Arnold, MO 63010
636.464.9150



Happy Birthday
Celebrate and
enjoy your day

Clint Evans	5/4
Teena Kilo	5/7
Jim Ulbrich	5/10
Katy Richardson	5/21
Phyllis Hahn	6/2
Steven McKenzie	6/3
Cathy Siemons	6/4
Jerry Stevens	6/10
Carl Fisk	6/18
Bill Kraemer	6/24
Carie Lammert	6/26
Glenda Boggs	7/3
Celestia Gaudreault	7/4
Sue Scotino	7/4
Mary Richardt	7/7
Ralph Spiker	7/15
Jerry Lambing	7/25
Ronald Fabio	7/26
Francie Beveridge	7/28
Charlie Meyer	7/29



After a Busy Winter, the Jefferson County Service Center Moves Into Spring

Thank you volunteers for your hard work and dedication

By Dale Chambers, Service Center Supervisor

As we look forward to warmer and drier weather, our Jefferson County Service Center volunteers are wrapping up an extremely busy first three months of the year. The year began with the January Disaster Action Team (DAT) meeting where **Leslie Kumke** asked how she could get more experience. This was definitely one of those cases of be careful what you wish for.

In January and February alone, volunteers provided assistance to over **70 individuals** from **23 different fires**. Many of these volunteers trounced through several inches of snow on the ground and even more overcame the very cold early morning hours to help fire victims.

Jerry Lambing heroically responded to a fire the night of an ice storm to assist two families whose fire sprinklers caused more damage to their home than the fire itself. And, when March finally came, **Leslie Kumke** gained the experience she wanted by spending the first few days responding to seven fires; two of which were double-incident rides.

In addition to Jerry and Leslie, the following volunteers responded to fires during the first two months of the year—**Elaine Booker, Jerry Crump, Carl Fisk, Phyllis Hahn, Teena Kilo, Bill Kraemer, Charlie Meyer, Janet Olsen, Tom**



Tina Kilo



Charles Meyer



Janet Olsen

Richardson, Brittany Schumacher, Sue Scotino, Ralph Spiker, Jerry Stevens, and Robert Vinluan. A huge thank you goes out to all of you for bearing the weather to help your community.

While DAT remained busy responding to fires, supplies from the

St. Louis warehouse and one Jefferson County volunteer were activated in response to the Midwest tornados and floods. The Disaster Field Supply Center staff, also known as the warehouse staff, wants to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who assisted with the ongoing cooler consolidation and the supply distribution following the Midwest tornados and floods. Your assistance allowed our center to send **15 trailers** full of disaster relief supplies. Many thanks to **Larry Boyer** (St. Charles Co.), **Crow Brozovich** (Headquarters), **Craig Fleming** (Metro East), **Jim Orling** (Headquarters), **John Rolfes** (St. Charles Co.), **Frank Sharon** (Metro East), **Tulio Vargas** (St. Charles Co.), **Robert Vinluan** (Jefferson Co.), **Denise Wallheimer** (Metro East), **Walt Wallheimer** (Metro East), and **Mike Wood** (Metro East).

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After a Busy Winter, the Jefferson County Service Center Moves Into Spring

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In January, **Phyllis Hahn** deployed to help with the Tennessee tornado relief effort. Phyllis spent almost two weeks working in Financial and Statistical Information (FSI) Management, was able to do some great work and came back with a few good stories to tell as always.

Because of Community Disaster Education volunteers, public awareness volunteers, office support volunteer staff, casework volunteers, and numerous others, the Service Center office was also extremely busy during the first three months of the year.

Celestia Gaudreault, Bill Kraemer, and **Jerry Stevens** have presented numerous Community Disaster Education classes since January, keeping Ready Rabbit and his gang busy.

Bill Kraemer, Leslie Kumke, Cheryl Richardson, Tom Richardson, and **Jerry Stevens** represented the Red Cross to spread the word about our services at

information booths and fairs throughout Jefferson County. A huge thanks goes to **Brittany Schumacher** for representing the Red Cross at the grand opening of the new Lowe's to provide local contractors more information about our health and safety services.

Elaine Booker, Celestia Gaudreault, Phyllis Hahn, Teena Kilo, Shirley Marino, and **Dan Staufenbiel** spent many hours as office support volunteers to help with the day-to-day tasks. They pitched in on a variety of projects including shelter system data entry and document shredding, which I hear is very therapeutic.

Also, we want to thank **Jim Sullivan** who came in during January and patiently assisted **14 families** with utility assistance through the **Dollar More** funding program.

Finally, we want to thank Culver's for hosting their annual "**Day of Caring**" event on March 5, despite the piles of snow and cold weather. Culver's restaurants in sixteen

states partnered with area Red Cross Chapters and pledged to donate 10% of their profits that day. When all was said and done, over **\$3,000** was given to our Chapter. A special thank you goes to **Tom Richardson** and **Sue Scotino** for greeting Culver's patrons and thanking them for supporting the American Red Cross. What a partnership this was!

While we're on the topic of partnerships, I am pleased to announce **Elena Sabin** was married on March 8. Our congratulations goes to Elena and her new husband!

In closing, we want our volunteers to know we appreciate everything you do, and it is noticeable when members of our team are missing. We hope that after a series of illnesses and injuries, our volunteers and their families are finally back to full strength. Thanks for everything and stay safe out there! ■

Service Milestones



Red Cross Recognizes Service Milestones

Thank you for your years of service!

Name	Start Date	Years of Service
Charlie Meyer	5/07	1
Francie Beveridge	5/01	7
Glenda Boggs	5/99	9
Elaine Booker	6/07	1
Evelyn Chandler	6/06	2
Sue Scotino	6/06	2
Kori Gummere	6/04	4
Celestia Gaudreault	7/04	4
Jim Sullivan	7/96	12



American Red Cross

St. Louis Area Chapter

METRO EAST SERVICE CENTER

American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter ■ Emergency Services ■ Spring, 2008 ■ Volume 4 Issue 2

NEWS

**Metro East
Service Center**
10218 Lincoln Trail
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
618.397.4600

Birthdays



**Happy
Birthday**
Celebrate and
enjoy your day

Richard Wiesen	5/2
Brandy Sharp	5/6
Linda Saffore	5/7
Rose Micka	5/15
Patrick Fay	5/25
Morenika Sommerville	6/5
Mike Wood	6/7
Angie Smith	6/14
Jeffrey Winans	6/16
Kim Mooney	6/18
Rebecca Rea	6/20
Brian Kohler	6/21
James Keleman	6/22
Angelaanita Riley	7/3
Verna Hill	7/11
Lawrence Wylie	7/11
Al Boucher	7/14
Kimberly Muszkopf	7/16
Angela Faith	7/19
Rebecca Finks	7/24
Linda Culver	7/25

After a Busy Winter, the Metro East Service Center Moves Into Spring

Thank you volunteers for your hard work and dedication

By Sandy Vaughn, Service Center Supervisor

As severe weather plagued much of the nation's midsection this winter and spring, our wonderful volunteers stepped up to the plate, willingly giving hours upon hours of time to carry out the Red Cross mission.

January and February were active months for our Disaster Action Team (DAT) volunteers. Teams responded to **41 fires** and providing assistance to **34 families** with a total of **122 individuals**. Volunteers also provided canteen services to **1,099 emergency responders**.

Denise and Walt Wallheimer were two of these volunteers. The Wallheimers were preparing to be in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade in Centreville, when they received a call from the **Caseyville Fire Department** requesting canteen services for **15 fire departments** responding to a commercial fire. Little did the Wallheimer's know they would end up canteening for three hours! Thanks to the both of you for

your dedication that day!

On another morning in January, after getting a wake up call at 2:30 a.m., **Cathy** and **Mike Murphy** responded to a four-unit apartment fire in Centreville. Four families were completely burned out of their apartments and needed our help immediately. We assisted all four families with motel rooms, food, and clothing. When one family member was interviewed on television they said "Thank goodness for the American Red Cross!" Thank you, Cathy and Mike, for a job well done.

A huge thank you also goes to the following DAT members who braved the January and February weather and spent many hours volunteering to help fire victims: **Don Barkley, Mark Bender, Don Bergmann, Al Boucher, Dave Caisse, Dave Daly, Brian Evans, Rebecca Finks, Craig Fleming, Jim Kelerman, Idaria Kerr, Cathy Murphy, Mike Murphy, Kizzie Pharr, June Pierson, Rebecca Rea, Alicia Self, Frank Sharon, Brandy Sharp, Tonda van Hoose, Rae Ellen Vogeler, Denise Wallheimer, Walt Wallheimer, Bob Whitlow, Donna Whitlow, and Rich Wiesen.**

While the DAT remained busy responding to fires, supplies from the Disaster Field Supply Center, also known

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Donna Whitlow canteening at a multi-alarm fire in Caseyville, IL.

After a Busy Winter, the Metro East Service Center Moves Into Spring

continued from front

as the warehouse, were needed to assist with flood relief efforts. The center staff would like to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who assisted with the ongoing cooler consolidation and the supply distribution. Your assistance allowed our center to send **15 trailers** full of disaster relief supplies. Many thanks to **Larry Boyer** (St. Charles Co.), **Crow Brozovich** (Headquarters), **Craig Fleming** (Metro East), **Jim Orling** (Headquarters), **John Rolfes** (St. Charles Co.), **Frank Sharon** (Metro East), **Tulio Vargas** (St. Charles Co.), **Robert Vinluan** (Jefferson Co.), **Denise Wallheimer** (Metro East), **Walt Wallheimer** (Metro East), and **Mike Wood** (Metro East).

December was an active month for Disaster Services Human Resources (DSHR) members. **Walt Wallheimer** and **Mike Wood** were deployed to help with the floods in Oregon State. **Craig Fleming** went to the ice storm in Jefferson City for his first DSHR assignment, and now wants to go out on all national disasters. **Don Barkley** deployed to St. Joseph, MO to help with the ice storms and then was deployed again in

February to Arkansas to assist after tornadoes hit the state.

Just like these DSHR volunteers, our caseworkers, office support staff, Community Disaster Education (CDE) presenters, and YouthCorps members have been busy since the start of the year. During January and February, our energy assistance program helped **75 families** with their heating bills; rental and food assistance will begin in April. Thank you to all of the volunteers who spend hours helping us with these programs.

CDE presenters **Bridget Adams, David Bradfield, Justin Kerns, A.J. Parker, Shae Parker, Trae Parker, Alicia Self, Desiree Sierra, Morenika Somerville,** and **Shomika Somerville** reached **2,905 individuals** through **102 presentations**.

YouthCorps members **Justin Kerns, A.J. Parker, Shae Parker,** and **Jamie Renneker** made Christmas cards for the veterans at Jefferson Barracks. **David Bradfield, Justin Kerns, A.J. Parker, Shae Parker** and **Jeff Vowell** will be busy until the end of May making presentations for after school programs. Keep up the good work!



Left to right: Youthcorps members from O'Fallon High School Jeff Vowell, David Bradfield, Shae Parker and Justin Kerns

We want everyone to know the **Belleville West** and **O'Fallon High School YouthCorps** are gearing up for their second annual comfort kit campaign. Last year the two groups collected items and assembled **228 comfort kits!** Good luck, teams!

Also, the next time you are at the service center, stop by and welcome our new Volunteers in Service to America



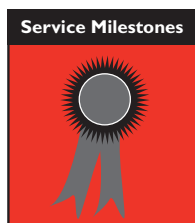
Desiree Sierra

(VISTA) member, **Desiree Sierra**. Desiree lives in Belleville and began working with us at the beginning of February. She's had a chance to settle

in, take some classes and learn what we do in a short amount of time. Welcome, Desiree!

I'd also like to report that DAT member, **Idaria Kerr**, was selected by the Business and Professional Women of Illinois (BPW/IL) as its **Young Careerist of the Year**. This is a tremendous honor for Idaria who had to compete against candidates from across the state of Illinois. The competition included a written application, essay questions, an interview, and a 3-minute speech. Idaria will compete as the Illinois representative at the BPW National Conference in Reno, Nevada next July. Congratulations, Idaria!

In closing, we want you to know we appreciate everything you do, and it is because of you that the Red Cross is able to help people each and every day. Thanks for everything and stay safe out there! ■



Red Cross Recognizes Service Milestones

Thank you for your years of service!

Name	Start Date	Years of Service
Gay Graves	5/07	1
Edward Graves	5/07	1
James Messer	5/07	1
Linda Saffore	5/04	4
David Daly	5/99	9
Verna Hill	5/95	13

Name	Start Date	Years of Service
Mike Wood	6/04	4
Don Barkley	6/99	9
Richard Wiesen	6/98	10
Patrick Fay	6/07	1
Rebecca Rea	6/06	2
Rita Determan	6/93	15



American Red Cross
St. Louis Area Chapter

ST. CHARLES COUNTY SERVICE CENTER

American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter ■ Emergency Services ■ Spring, 2008 ■ Volume 4 Issue 2

NEWS

St. Charles County
Service Center
224 Mid Rivers Center
St. Peters, MO 63376
636.397.1074



Happy Birthday Celebrate and enjoy your day

Tim Prinkey	5/1
Mary Young	5/1
Allen Kalmar	5/4
Gail Michel	5/4
Kathy Blundon	5/8
Bev Relford	5/24
Merle Blundon	6/3
Cole Waltermann	6/6
Jeanne Deutch	6/7
Ingrid Casillo	6/14
Pam Donley	6/14
Paul Mueller	6/15
Brian Crees	6/22
Gary Pierson	6/24
MaryBeth Davis	6/27
Jackie Steinberg	6/29
Susan Voges	6/29
Jean Smyth	7/5
Cathy Zehner	7/6
Bill Voges	7/13
Rebecca Hankins-Farber	7/15

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After a Busy Winter, the St. Charles County Service Center Moves Into Spring

Thank you volunteers for your hard work and dedication

By Brad Farber, Service Center Supervisor

As severe weather plagued much of the nation's midsection this winter and spring, St. Charles County Service Center volunteers stepped up to the plate, willingly giving hours upon hours of time to carry out the Red Cross mission.

January was a busy month for our Disaster Action Team (DAT) volunteers who responded to **seven fires**, assisted **23 individuals** from **seven families** and provided canteen services to **201 emergency responders**. After all of that activity, our DAT volunteers got a rest in February responding to **one fire**, where they assisted **one family** and provided canteen services to **20 emergency responders**.

A huge thank you to the following DAT members who spent many hours volunteering to help fire victims in January and February: **Kathy Blundon, Merle Blundon, Loretta Buehrle, Micah Conner, Bev Eggering, Jeff Fugate, Dave Gross, Patti Harper, Dave Mayden, John Meisenbacher, Forrest Routh, Pat Routh, Jean Smyth, and John Stamelos**.

While St. Charles County Service Center DAT members braved the weather to respond to several fires, supplies from the St. Louis warehouse were activated in response to the Midwest tornados and floods. The Disaster Field Supply Center staff, also known as the warehouse staff, wants to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who assisted with the ongoing cooler consolidation and the supply distri-

bution. Your assistance allowed our center to send **15 trailers** full of disaster relief supplies. Many thanks to **Larry Boyer** (St. Charles Co.), **Crow Brozovich** (Headquarters), **Craig Fleming** (Metro East), **Jim Orling** (Headquarters), **John Rolfes** (St. Charles Co.), **Frank Sharon** (Metro East), **Tulio Vargas** (St. Charles Co.), **Robert Vinluan** (Jefferson Co.), **Denise Wallheimer** (Metro East), **Walt Wallheimer** (Metro East), and **Mike Wood** (Metro East).

In addition to these volunteers, our Community Disaster Education (CDE) presenters have been equally busy reaching as many people in our county as possible. During the months of January and February, our CDE presenters reached **3,745 people** through **53 presentations**. It is great to know that the residents of St. Charles County are now more prepared than ever for a disaster thanks to the dedication of our volunteers.

In recognition of our volunteers, the Service Center held its annual **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** on Friday, March 14. **Vivian Luce**, chair of the Chapter's Board of Directors, emceed the luncheon, **Shelby McCoy**, chair of the Board's Volunteer Committee, introduced each award recipient, and **Mary Rosen**, director of Volunteer Resources, presented the awards. At the luncheon, several volunteers received awards for making an impact in the community. We want to recognize these 2008 Volunteer Award Recipients.

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Bill Denneger

Jean Smyth (St. Peters, MO) and **Bill Denneger** (Warrenton, MO) received the **Community Disaster Education Award** for educating the public regarding the importance of emergency

preparedness. DAT Members **Forrest** and **Pat Routh** (St. Peters, MO) received the **Humanitarian Service Award** for responding to emergencies and providing caring assistance and skilled expertise whenever called upon.

Merle Blundon (St. Peters, MO) and **Bev Relford** (St. Charles, MO) were



Pat and Forrest Routh



Lumbia Tolliver

presented with the **Honorary Service Award** in recognition of their continued outstanding volunteer commitment in responding to local disasters. For helping to strengthen and improve services, DAT volunteer **Lumbia Tolliver** (Wentzville, MO) received the **New Outstanding Volunteer Award**.

John Rolfes (Winfield, MO) and **John Stamelos** (St. Peters, MO) were this year's recipients of the **Disaster Services Award** due to their hours spent with the Disaster Action Team and their local and national disaster relief work. The **Youth Volunteer Award** was presented to **Bradley Irwin** (St. Charles, MO) for volunteering with his mother, **Sandy Irwin**, to represent the Red Cross at Health and Safety fairs and Community Disaster Education booths throughout St. Charles County. Bradley also volunteers in the Communications Center at the St. Louis Area Chapter.

This year, the St. Charles Service Center gave two **Volunteer of the**

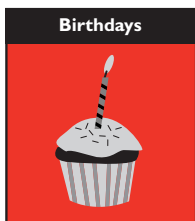


Bradley Irwin

and the local Red Cross programs and services we provide. Larry serves as a DAT member, maintains the response vehicle, manages logistics and serves on the Chapter Shelter Team. Lavon helps with data entry in the Learning Management, Client Assistance, National Sheltering and the Public Awareness Events Systems, and also responds to local and national disasters. Congratulations to all our 2008 award winners.

As a quick reminder, the DAT will be meeting the following Saturdays from 9:00-10:30 am: **May 17, June 21, and July 19.**

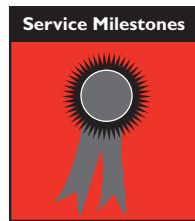
In closing, we want our St. Charles County Service Center volunteers to know we appreciate everything you do. We are able to accomplish our mission and serve our community because of you. ■



Birthdays

continued from front

John Meisenbacher	7/16
Theresa Meisenbacher	7/18
Jeff Fugate	7/20
Bill Dennager	7/24
Linda Newberry	7/27
Jessica Rhodes	7/27
Micah Conner	7/28
Robert Fortner	7/28



Service Milestones

Red Cross Recognizes Service Milestones

Thank you for your years of service!

Name	Start Date	Years of Service	Name	Start Date	Years of Service
Loretta Fortner	5/07	1	Ina Obenland	5/01	7
Robert Fortner	5/07	1	Linda Newberry	6/07	1
Patti Harper	5/07	1	Tom Michel	6/06	2
Shalom Shoaf	5/07	1	Nancy Dennager	6/05	3
Jackie Weidig	5/07	1	Jeff Fugate	7/05	3
Joe Fogg	5/06	2	Rebecca Hankins-Farber	7/05	3
Merle Blundon	5/03	5	Micah Conner	7/01	7
Rod Zerr	5/03	5			