

RED NEWS

American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter ■ Emergency Services ■ Winter, 2009 ■ Volume 5 Issue 1



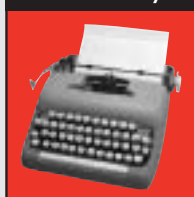
After an Active Year, the Red Cross Needs to Raise Funds

Thank you volunteers for your support of the Red Cross mission

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Feature Story



What a year we've had at the Red Cross. Our neighbors all across the country have been affected by disasters—a record number of tornadoes,

the worst flooding in the Midwest in 15 years, an early wildfire season and an active hurricane season. Hundreds of St. Louis volunteers responded at the national and local level. As the Chair of the Emergency Services Committee, I know I can speak for the Chapter when I say **we can't thank you enough** for the work you do for the Red Cross.

Because of the great need for Red Cross services this year, **millions of dollars were spent** to fund the relief operations including thousands of dollars from our own Chapter. Normally when this happens, Americans reach into their pockets and give generously because they trust the Red Cross and they know we do good work. But in today's challenging economic times, it's much harder to raise support. We understand this. We see the effects of a down-turned economy right here in St. Louis. Single-family home fires are expected to increase this winter because the cost of home heating is on the rise, which means people will look to alternate heating options to stay warm. We're working hard to educate our community about safe home heating options and fire prevention but sadly,



we know our services will be called upon more than ever.

It is in this spirit that we ask our Red Cross family to give \$5, \$10 or any amount you can to help the Red Cross ready our resources for the next disaster. I have been a volunteer for four years now and I can't think of a time when our Chapter needs its volunteers more. I'm giving to the Chapter and I hope you will join me. Like I said, you have already done enough by giving your time, but if you can give in one more way—by making a financial gift to the Chapter—I can guarantee your money will go to good use.

Once again, thank you for your volunteer participation in 2008. Happy holidays to you and yours. ■

Jack Wahl
*Volunteer and Chair of the
Emergency Services Committee*

Read more about fire safety on page 13.



Jack Wahl

Jim and Sheila Ulbrich Manage a Red Cross Shelter in the Wake of Hurricane Ike

Husband and wife volunteer team make a lasting impact on the town of Baytown, TX

On September 10, **Jim and Sheila Ulbrich** joined **400** Red Cross workers in Dallas, TX, to prepare for the landfall of Hurricane Ike. The Ulbrichs were part of a massive Red Cross staging effort that spanned several coastal states. Weather forecasters warned of a deadly storm, possibly the worst since Hurricane Katrina. And Mother Nature delivered.

Hurricane Ike made landfall on Saturday, September 13 at 2:10 a.m. just under Category 3 Hurricane strength with winds reaching 110 mph. A wall of water hundreds of miles wide slammed into the Texas coast. Entire communities were decimated.

“The community was pretty devastated, but everyone was hopeful they could rebound. Everyone helped one another and we knew we were making a difference.”

—Jim Ulbrich

As soon as weather conditions permitted, Jim and Sheila deployed to Baytown, TX, one of the hardest hit communities, to set up a Red Cross shelter. “When we arrived, we started from scratch. We had no showers, flushing toilets, or electricity and we were in a community that was 75% destroyed,” Jim explained.

Jim and Sheila got to work immediately by setting up a shelter in a Baptist church. They moved furniture, swept floors, and put up Red Cross signs. They worked with their contacts at Red Cross Headquarters, local stores and community organizations to get basic supplies like cots, blankets, portable toilets, diapers, bottled water, cups and drinks. Within a

few days, Red Cross emergency response vehicles delivered heater meals, comfort kits and a generator to power the shelter.

One week into his assignment in Baytown Jim said, “I can easily say that this is the most challenging assignment I have experienced as a Red Cross volunteer.” At that point, the community still had no electricity or running water, and gas lines were three to five miles long. Jim predicted that the Red Cross was going to be there for a long time. He was right. Hurricane Ike was the **third largest hurricane** to hit the United States, right behind Andrew in 1992 and Katrina in 2005.

Thanks to Jim and Sheila’s hard work and commitment to serving the Baytown community, hundreds of men, women and children were provided a safe place to stay for weeks in the wake of losing everything. One family Jim and Sheila helped was the Garza family. In October, the Chapter received a letter from the Garzas with the following message: “Thank you for your open arm hospitality. My words cannot express the emotion I feel and how grateful I am. All I can say is thank you so much.”

Jim and Sheila were two of **24** local volunteers who deployed to Texas and

Quick Facts for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike

From late August through October, the American Red Cross:

- Opened 824 shelters
- Provided 437,000+ overnight stays
- Served 14.4 million meals and snacks
- Distributed 110,000 clean-up and comfort kits
- Spent \$100 million+ on the relief operation
- Was served by 22,000+ Red Cross workers

Louisiana following Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. We thank each of you for your help during these very difficult assignments. Because of your efforts, tens of thousands of people received care and assistance in their time of need. ■

*If you are interested in volunteering during large national disasters, become a Disaster Services Human Resources (DSHR) Volunteer. Contact **Jeannie Edington** at 314.516.2762 or e-mail jeannie@redcrossstl.org.*



Disaster Hits Greater St. Louis Area

St. Louis Area Chapter volunteers provide emergency relief following flash floods

We don't typically think of St. Louis as being prone to hurricanes, but on Sunday, September 14, the Hurricane Ike storm system deluged the St. Louis area with **4.42 inches** of rain in less than one hour. Creeks, rivers and sewer systems quickly became inundated. Water rushed into hundreds of homes and businesses leaving people scurrying to grab what they could as they hurried to safety.

Parts of Hazelwood, Brentwood, Florissant, Ladue, St. Louis City and County, Jefferson County, and part of the Metro East were affected. Hundreds of homes were condemned and families were left with no place to go.

"Tragically, a large number of people were without flood insurance and lost everything," said **Mary Anderson**, director of disaster readiness and response. "We're here to help people get back on their feet."

The Red Cross reacted quickly by opening a reception center in Florissant and a shelter in University City. The Chapter also opened its doors to provide casework to families whose homes were damaged. During the **two week relief operation**, local Red Cross staff and volunteers provided casework, food, water, shelter, mental health support and more to hundreds of affected individuals.

Local Red Cross volunteers, **Dan** and **Lois Flippen** helped manage the University City shelter. Lois worked the overnight shift from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. while Dan worked the day shift. A few days into her assignment, Lois shared the following message on the Chapter's Blog, "Over this past week, I have seen our guests go through a tribulation in their lives. When they first arrived, I could see tension in their eyes and actions. I listened to the stories of how quickly the water came and receded,

and how people on the first floor basically had no chance of saving anything. Almost all they owned is gone. I heard several say they didn't know where they would be sleeping if the Red Cross didn't have the shelter open."

To everyone who helped during our community's time of need, **thank you.** ■

*If you are interested in volunteering during local disasters, become a Disaster Services Human Resources (DSHR) Volunteer. Contact **Jeannie Edington** at 314.516.2762 or e-mail Jeannie at redington@redcrossstl.org.*

Thank You, Red Cross

Following the September flash floods, Ann Roberts was one St. Louisan who found herself in need of help. Here she recounts her story:

On Sunday, September 14, I woke up to 18 inches of water in my first floor apartment. There was no time for me to grab much—just a few clothes and a pair of shoes. My family is all out-of-town, but luckily a co-worker offered me a place to stay until my daughter arrived late that night.

When I went back to my apartment that evening, I found 90-95 percent of what I owned was lost. Most of my food, clothing and furniture was destroyed by the floodwater. As I was cleaning, a neighbor came to check on me and told me the Red Cross was offering emergency assistance. I immediately called and a woman took my name and number. She said someone would be getting back to me. The very next day, I got a phone call from the Red Cross and went to the Chapter for help.

While working, I donated to the Red Cross and United Way. I never thought I would one day be the recipient of their services. But from the first step through the Red Cross doors, I knew I would continue to give to these two community agencies. Immediately, I was welcomed by a smiling face and from there on out, everyone at the Red Cross was so gracious and understanding of my situation. It was incredible for me to think that the woman who helped me was donating her time to be there. The Red Cross was able to provide clothing, food and clean up supplies, which were all essential as I began to recover.

This situation, while difficult, helped me to realize that friends, co-workers and community resources like the Red Cross can make such a difference during tough times. A co-worker, who I call my guardian angel, let me stay with her while I waited for my family to arrive; a friend gave me a bed she no longer needed; and the Red Cross was there when I needed them to provide food and clothing.

There may still be more items that I want, but I have all that I need. I am thankful for every person that helped me through this time.

Ann Roberts
Hazelwood, MO

Quick Facts for Local Flash Flooding Relief Effort

In Missouri and Illinois, the American Red Cross:

- Opened 275 cases and provided 748 individuals with emergency relief
- Provided 42 overnight stays in 3 shelters
- Served 1,257 meals and snacks
- Distributed 247 clean up kits
- Was served by 116 volunteers and staff



American Red Cross

St. Louis Area Chapter



Thank You

Thank you volunteers, for helping the Red Cross provide relief to citizens in need following Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and flash flooding in St. Louis.



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.



Thank You, Disaster Volunteers, for Your Service

You helped thousands of people in need during August, September and October

We wish to thank the following **114 Disaster Services Human Resources (DSHR) members** who gave their time and energy to help those in need following Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and the flash floods here in St. Louis:

Judy Alferman	Danaé Dimmick	Barbara Johnson	Karen Proffitt	Dave Whitfield
Mary Anderson	Pam Donley	Teena Kilo	Brooke Ray	Bob Whitlow
Barbara Barnes	Catherine Donovan	Amelia Kinter	Kathy Ray	Jessica Willingham
Nancy Bates	Alice Dyle	Joanie Knappenberger	Tom Richardson	Courtney Wilderman
Connie Bergmann	Jeannie Edington	Annetta Kuechler	Jack Riegel	Brian Woll
Don Bergmann	Deno Fabbre	Leslie Kumke	JoAn Romo	Mike Wood
Cheryl Bettlach	Dan Faber	Jerry Lambing	TJ Runge	
Merle Blundon	Brad Farber	Stephanie Landess	Terry Sanders	
Joe Bollinger	Craig Fleming	Dallas Leavitt	Alicia Self	
Tiffany Borrine	Dan Flippen	Patty Lee	Joy Shickman	
Al Boucher	Lois Flippen	John McFee	Desiree Sierra	
Larry Boyer	Joe Fogg	John Meisenbacher	Patsy Smothers	
Crow Brozovich	Bob Fortner	Theresa Meisenbacher	Jean Smyth	
Duane Bruce	Loretta Fortner	Charlie Meyer	Sandy Soll	
Dick Bylund	Carol Gano	Clarabelle Meyer	John Stamelos	
Ophelia Carson	Roy Gillespie	Janie Miller	Dan Stokes	
Dale Chambers	Lavon Gilliland	Paul Mueller	Dena Stokes	
Michael Chatman	Dennis Gusky	Bob Murphy	Bill Thien	
Ann Christmas	Phyllis Hahn	Tom Murry	Jackie Trice	
Sharon Colantonio	Arthur Hailand	Patti Nippe	Jim Ulbrich	
Micah Conner	Angela Hakim	Donna Null	Sheila Ulbrich	
Linda Culver	Elaine Hegel	Jim Oberholz	Sandy Vaughn	
Dave Current	Amy Heidotten	Gary Ogle	Robert Vinluan	
Lynda Dahlen	Courtney Hinton	Jim Orling	Denise Wallheimer	
Tony De Avila Diaz	Nicole Holtgrefe	June Pierson	Walt Wallheimer	
Bill Dennager	Sandy Irwin	Kimberly Pratt	Becky White	
Rita Determan	Roland Jackson	Jim Proffitt	Sandy White	

Have You Read the St. Louis Area Chapter BLOG?

We want to hear your stories

Visit www.redcrossstl.org to read dozens of first-hand accounts from Red Cross volunteers on the frontlines. Hear from volunteers **Bob Whitlow, Charlie Meyer, Dan Flippen, Lois Flippen, Jim Ulbrich, Sheila Ulbrich, Dick Bylund, Tiffany Borrine, Al Boucher** and many more. While you're there, feel free to leave a comment. ■

If you have a story to share on the Chapter's Blog, please call **Kimberly Pratt** at 314.516.2718 or e-mail kpratt@redcrossstl.org.



Nominate Your Fellow Volunteers for Red Cross Volunteer Awards

Nomination forms are now available

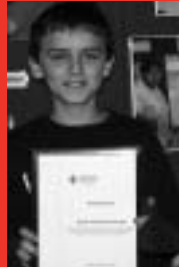
The St. Louis Area Chapter is so proud of our volunteers that we want to recognize you for the great work you do everyday in our community. If you want to help recognize someone who goes above and beyond to help others, **complete a 2009 Volunteer Awards nomination form by January 23.**

Volunteers will be recognized in the spring at awards ceremonies at Chapter Headquarters and all four Service Centers. New this year, we will also have a big celebration at Chapter Headquarters in May.

We can't give out awards without nominations so get started today! And stay tuned for more details on the upcoming award events. ■

Nomination forms are available at Chapter Headquarters, all four Service Centers and at www.redcrossstl.org. If you have questions about the volunteer awards, please call **Mary Rosen** at 314.516.2876.

Here are just a few of the 2008 award recipients:



Bradley Irwin, Youth Volunteer Award, St. Charles County



Leslie Kumke, Volunteer of the Year Award, Jefferson County



Lumbia Tolliver, New Outstanding Volunteer Award, St. Charles County



Bettina Huston, Honorary Service Award, Scott Air Force Base



Following the local flooding in September, we received dozens of messages of thanks from local individuals and families. Here are just a few of those messages:

Dear Red Cross,

*My husband and I lived in University City during the flooding on September 14, 2008. We spent a week at Heman Park when the Red Cross set up shelter for the tenants of University City. I am writing to say how grateful we are and to the young lady who made a special trip to get me a Bible. I can't remember her name, but she knows who she is. I was about to fall apart and needed God's words after we almost drowned on Sunday morning in our apartment. **We especially thank Dan and Lois [Flippen]** just for listening and being in good spirits around us. All the Red Cross staff we had contact with went out of their way to give us comfort in a time of despair. When Dan introduced himself, he said he was there to serve us, the tenants of University City. I intend to pass a blessing on to someone else. Continue to pray for our strength.*

*Thank you,
Charles and Betty Jones
University City*

Dear Red Cross,



*Hello, my name is Pamela Bowser. I was a victim of the flooding during Hurricane Ike. When I walked into your offices, I was afraid no one would believe my story. After a rough start, you assured me and my mom that we would be helped. **Marie** was very nice. She is such a beautiful person. Your staff was nice and helped me in very tough times! When you went the extra mile to help me and encouraged me, **I felt the burden lifting off.** Marie gently held my hand and told me everything would be okay. I felt like I had nothing until that day. Thank you so much for your generosity. God Bless.*

*Sincerely,
Pamela Bowser
St. Louis*



American Red Cross
St. Louis Area Chapter

Fairview Heights Volunteer Gives His Time to Help Others

Retired Air Force veteran Craig Fleming is a hole in one for the Red Cross



For some, retirement can mean sunny climates and complete relaxation. That's not exactly the case for Red Cross volunteer, **Craig**

Fleming. After retiring from the Air Force, Craig moved from sunny Los Angeles, CA, to Fairview Heights, IL, to be closer to his family. Initially, his golf game kept him busy, but after a few weeks Craig found himself wanting to do more. "I had just retired and wanted to do something with my time. So I went to the Fairview Heights Red Cross office, asked what I could do and the rest is history," Craig recalled.

And that history is still a relatively new one. Craig has been with the Red Cross for a little over a year, but he has already taken all of the available classes,

become a Disaster Action Team (DAT) Supervisor and Team Leader, performed disaster assessment following

the flash flooding in September, and deployed on national disaster relief assignments, including Hurricane Ike. And he hasn't stopped there. Craig recently began training to help with Lifeline installation.

While retirement has given Craig time to volunteer, there is another factor that remains Craig's strongest motivation and

"A lot of people sit back and think about volunteering, but you don't know how good it feels until you actually do it."

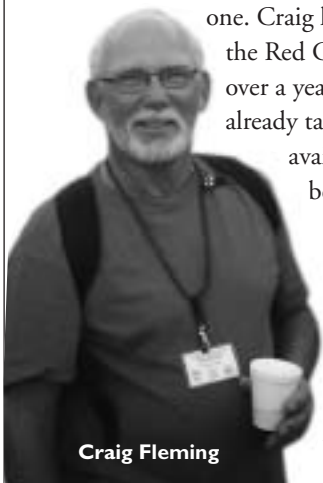
—Craig Fleming

real reason for volunteering—a love for helping others. "To tell you the truth, Hurricane Katrina is what opened my eyes to what people can do to help others," Craig said. "A lot of people sit back and think about volunteering, but you don't know how good it feels until you actually do it."

It was this attitude that led Craig to the Red Cross and gave him the chance to experience the gratification of volunteering firsthand. One recent experience that Craig recounted illustrates this point perfectly. While on disaster assignment

following Hurricane Ike, Craig was volunteering in a Red Cross shelter that was bustling with children. One day the children were given large drawing tablets and red crayons, and asked to express what the Red Cross meant to them. Craig recalls that at the end of the day there were at least 25 pictures spread across the gym floor. While they were all heartfelt, Craig remembers one in particular. The picture read, "My family is in the hands of the Red Cross." And that's something Craig will never forget. It's the "reaction of the people that you help—how appreciative they are," says Craig, which makes him do so much for others. But if it were up to Craig he wouldn't stop there. "I wish I could do more, not just nationally—worldwide. I want to be out in the field with the people."

"Craig is one of those guys that is always ready to lend a hand," said **Sandy Vaughn**, Metro East Service Center Manager. "If we are short-handed or a DAT member can't go to a fire, we know Craig will go (if at all possible). That is, if he's not on the golf course," Sandy joked. According to Craig, "Everybody knows Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays are my golf days. Other than that I'm all yours." ■



Craig Fleming

Strength in Numbers

How you've helped during the months of August, September and October

Quarterly Recap



Disaster Action Teams responded to **240** fires and provided **644** individuals with emergency food, clothing and shelter.

4,032 emergency personnel were canteened at the scene of local disasters.

114 volunteers were deployed to **5** states to assist with national disaster relief operations.

\$100,000+ in assistance was provided following the local flash floods.

Community Disaster Education presenters reached **28,141** individuals through **643** presentations.

890 service members including active duty, reserves, and their families, were educated about Red Cross services for the Armed Forces.

\$59,500 in financial assistance was provided to local members of the Armed Forces on behalf of various Military Aid Societies. ■

Learn How You Can Prepare for Pandemic Influenza

Simple steps you can take to avoid infection

St. Louisans are no strangers to the seasonal flu, which occurs every year between the months of December and March. Seasonal flu is a serious public health concern that affects millions of Americans each year, but one that usually follows a very regular and predictable pattern. Outbreaks are controlled and can even be avoided through yearly flu vaccinations. **Pandemic flu**, on the other hand, is by nature unpredictable and difficult to manage.

What is Pandemic Flu?

A pandemic is a disease that spreads all over the world and affects a large number of people in a short period of time. This happens when a new flu virus emerges and spreads quickly because



Get a Kit



Make a Plan



Be Informed



Want to know when the flu will hit your neighborhood? Google has the answer. Visit google.org/flutrends to track the flu in real time.

there is little or no immunity. Luckily, pandemic flu is a rare occurrence. According to pandemicflu.gov, there were three documented instances of outbreak in the 20th century, with the last outbreak occurring in 1968. While outbreaks are rare, the implications can be serious. Signs and symptoms are similar to, but are more severe than those associated with the seasonal flu.

How to Reduce the Spread of Flu

To reduce the spread of seasonal and pandemic flu there are several steps you can take:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

- Clean your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and clean your hands afterward. Put used tissues in a wastebasket.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue.
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth to prevent germs from entering your body.

These are just the basics. Take the time to educate yourself, your family, and your co-workers about pandemic flu.

The Role of the American Red Cross

Throughout its history, the American Red Cross has been deeply committed to stopping the spread of infectious diseases through education. To prepare for future flu pandemics, the Red Cross is offering **free pandemic flu education** to the Greater St. Louis community. Presentations can be scheduled at a time and place that is convenient for you and your group. We can help you create home safety plans in preparation for the care of an infected loved one, and as with any disaster, we encourage you to have a disaster supply kit, including both food and water. ■

To learn more about Pandemic Flu preparedness, visit our website at www.redcrossstl.org. To schedule a seminar, or to become a volunteer Pandemic Flu presenter, call **Elena Sabin** at 314.516.2753.

Want to Read More Red News?

Did you receive the last edition of Red News? We hear many copies were lost in the mail. Visit

www.redcrossstl.org and click on the **Resources** tab to read a full version of the fall edition. Topics include **community disaster education, a Hurricane Dolly relief operation recap, an event honoring local veterans, a spotlight on volunteer Karen Wamble, and much more.**



Be Red Cross Ready
www.redcrossstl.org



American Red Cross
St. Louis Area Chapter

Meet the St. Louis Area Chapter Staff

Get to know the men and women who work alongside volunteers

As the sixth article in our series designed to “put a face with a name,” we are pleased to introduce you to the men and women who help support Red Cross Emergency Services. In this edition we spotlight a few of our newest team members as well as a long-time staffer from our Volunteer Resources department.



Mike Braeuninger joined the Emergency Services team in August as the International Services Supervisor and has been busy ever since. Mike is managing the

International Humanitarian Law, Measles Initiative, and Holocaust/Family Tracing programs, and is currently immersing himself in program literature. He is especially looking forward to building on past successes and expanding outreach. Originally from Ferguson, MO, Mike calls St. Charles home and enjoys listening to and playing music as well as biking on the Katy Trail.



Danaé Dimmick joined our Emergency Services team in August as an AmeriCorps National Preparedness and

Response Corps member. Originally from West Frankfort, IL, Danaé now lives in Creve Coeur and attends graduate school at SIUE. Danaé says she likes going out into the community and educating people about disaster preparedness. She especially appreciates hearing stories about how the Red Cross helped someone or their family during a disaster. When she's not giving preparedness presentations, you can find Danaé enjoying two of her favorite things—working out and eating.



A native of the southern Oklahoma town of Waurika, **Angela Hakim** now calls St. Louis home. Angela started with the Chapter four months ago as an AmeriCorps

National Preparedness and Response Corps member. Since that time she has found she has a passion for our mission, which can be seen in everything she does. Particularly, Angela loves being part of an organization that works directly with clients and helps strengthen the community. This self-proclaimed news junkie also enjoys reading, jogging and playing basketball.



Like several of our staff members, **Janet Lickliger** began her Red Cross experience as a Health & Safety volunteer instructor in 1993.

Two years later Janet was hired as a part time instructor and soon after that joined the Volunteer Resources team. You can usually find Janet hard at work processing new volunteer applications, coordinating the Introduction to Volunteering workshops, and scheduling blood drives at the Chapter Headquarters. This lifelong resident of St. Louis now resides in Weldon Spring with her husband and their two dogs. In her spare time, Janet enjoys visiting with her six grandchildren and reading.



While she may be new to the role of Community Disaster Education Specialist, **Elena Sabin** is no stranger to the Emergency

Services department. Originally from Davenport, IA, this South City resident began her Red Cross experience in 2005 as an AmeriCorps member at Chapter Headquarters. After her year-long term was complete, Elena took a brief hiatus before becoming the Administrative Assistant at the Jefferson County Service Center in 2007. In her current position, Elena is responsible for coordinating our disaster education programs and volunteers, and spreading the message of disaster preparedness to businesses, organizations and churches. When she's not at work, you can find Elena hanging out with her husband and three pet rabbits, enjoying the great restaurants in South City, or making jewelry. ■

To read other “Meet the Staff” articles, visit www.redcrossstl.org, click on the Resources tab and download past editions of Red News.



Blood is a gift from the heart.

Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood. It could be you, someone in your family or someone you will never meet. To keep up with demand, 1,200 blood donations are needed in Missouri and Illinois every day. Please consider

blood donation. It's truly a gift from the heart.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or log onto www.bloodisneeded.org.

Help Wanted

Additional volunteers are needed for local and national disaster relief efforts



More than **300** St. Louis Area Chapter volunteers are members of the Disaster Services Human Resources (DSHR) team. And we're actively recruiting more people to join us. The more people we have, the better equipped we are to respond to large national and local disasters.

Availability to respond outside of our Chapter's jurisdiction is not required. When disasters hit, we encourage members to call us with their availability. Whether it is one day

or one month, we welcome your help and support. Scheduling is flexible to allow for prior personal commitments and as always, **training is free of charge.**

Here are some of the activities you can help with during disasters:

- **Mass Care**—feeding, sheltering, bulk distribution
- **Client Services**—client casework, health services, mental services
- **Material Support Services**—transportation, procurement, warehousing, facility management
- **Staff Services**—staff relations, training, workforce planning & acquisition
- **Information Management Support**—disaster assessment,

financial & statistical information

- **Partner Services**—community relations, government liaison, labor
- **Organization Support**—public affairs, fund raising

There is something for everyone. Not sure what you'd like to do? We'll help you find the right activity to fit your talents and interests. Enrollment in the DSHR system is easy and only takes a few minutes to complete. ■

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact **Jeannie Edington** at 314.516.2762 or email Jeannie at redington@redcrossstl.org.

The New Ready Rating™ Program Improves the Safety of our Community

First-of-its-kind program helps businesses, organizations and schools prepare for emergencies

How prepared is your school, place of employment, or church if a disaster strikes? It's a difficult question to answer unless you're a member of the St. Louis Area Chapter Ready Rating Program. Since the program's launch ten months ago, more than **70 St. Louis area businesses, organizations and schools** have rated their disaster readiness on a 65 point scale. Guess what the average score is? **29** out of 65. That tells us that many members aren't as prepared as they thought.

The good news is that we can show our members how to get prepared. The Ready Rating Program has action plans and resources to help improve preparedness. Members receive one-on-one assistance from Red Cross preparedness experts as well as communication tools, and educational opportunities.

This month our members are completing year-end Assessments to

Red Cross Ready Rating™ Program



ANHEUSER-BUSCH
National Founding Sponsor

measure their progress. Scores have increased by as many as **20 points!** We're encouraged and pleased to see so many local organizations making emergency preparedness a priority.

How can you get involved? Ask your employer, your child's school or your civic or faith based organization if they are Ready Rating members. Encourage them to visit our website at readyrating.redcrossstl.org or call 314-516-2711 to learn more. ■

To view a full list of Ready Rating members or to learn more, visit readyrating.redcrossstl.org.

"As a school administrator, it's my job to make sure students are safe during the seven hours a day they spend with us. That's why the Mehlville School District was among the first to join the Ready Rating Program. Thanks to this program, we now know exactly where we stand and what we need to do to improve our readiness. And the Red Cross is there to help us every step of the way."

—Dr. Brian Lane,
Assistant Superintendent,
Mehlville School District



American Red Cross
St. Louis Area Chapter

Red Cross Volunteers Deliver Gifts to Veterans at John Cochran Veterans Hospital

A simple gift receives a multitude of thanks



Braving the rain, this team went to John Cochran Veterans Hospital to distribute gift bags to the in-patients and show their appreciation on Veteran's Day. Pictured from left to right: Danae Dimmick, Cindy Zehner, Bob Schenk, Nicole Holtgreffe, Bob Shive, Bob Murphy, and Nancy Bartel. Not pictured: Jerry Lambing

In honor of Veteran's Day, a group of volunteers and staff from the St. Louis Area Chapter delivered gift bags filled with socks, playing cards, puzzle books and pens to veterans at **John Cochran Veterans Hospital**. The group had a great time meeting with the veterans and personally thanking them for their service to our country. One veteran looked at the group with tears in his eyes, a smile on his face and whispered a heartfelt "thanks".

Volunteer, **Bob Shive** recalled, "It was humbling and a bit sobering that we received so much gratitude for the simple gift we gave. Overall, the veterans had great spirits for all that they have been through." ■

If you would like to volunteer for the Services to Armed Forces program, contact **Nicole Holtgreffe** at 314-516-2755 or e-mail Nicole at nholtgreffe@redcrossstl.org.



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 may 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. Choose the date and time that works best for you.

Course Name	Date	Time
Client Casework	Wed 1/14 and Thurs 1/15	6p-10p both nights
Fulfilling Our Mission	Fri 1/23	9a-12n
Fundamentals of Disaster Assessment	Wed 1/28	6p-10p
Shelter Operations and Simulation	Wed 2/11 and Thurs 2/12	6p-10p both nights
Fulfilling Our Mission	Tues 2/17	6p-9p
Defensive Driving	Fri 2/20	9a-1p
Financial & Statistical Information	Mon 2/23	1p-6p
Logistics: Overview & Simulation	Thurs 2/26	9a-6p
First Aid / CPR / AED – Adult	Fri 3/13	8a-5p
Client Casework	Sat 3/21	8a-5p
Fulfilling Our Mission	Wed 3/25	1p-4p
Fundamentals of Disaster Assessment	Fri 3/27	8a-12n

All classes listed above will be held at Chapter Headquarters located at 10195 Corporate Square Drive, St. Louis, MO, 63132. For additional course offerings, please contact the Service Center nearest you. ■

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

Home Fires are on the Rise

As temperatures drop, the number of home fires spikes significantly

Everyday our Disaster Action Team volunteers witness the damaging effects of residential fires—homes lost, families displaced and personal effects destroyed. Last year, our volunteers responded to nearly **1,200 fires** in the St. Louis Area. That's an average of **three fires every day**. Here's how you can get prepared:

Make Your Home Safe:

- Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm outside each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home.
- If people sleep with doors closed, install smoke alarms inside sleeping areas, too.



- Use the test button to check each smoke alarm once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. Replace all batteries at least once a year.
- Vacuum away cobwebs and dust from your smoke alarms monthly.
- Consider having one or more working fire extinguishers in your home. Get training from the fire department in how to use them.
- Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your home.

Plan Your Escape Routes:

- Determine at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.
- Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them and store them near the window.
- Select a location outside your home where everyone can meet.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

Escape Safely:

- Once you are out, stay out! Call the fire department from a neighbor's home.
- If you see smoke or fire in your first escape route, use your second way out. If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to your exit.
- If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door before opening it. If it is warm, use your second way out.
- If smoke, heat, or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call the fire department and tell them where you are.

Fires can strike at anytime, so it's important to be prepared. Make sure your family has a disaster supply kit ready and a well-practiced plan in place in the event of an emergency. ■

For more safety tips visit www.redcrossstl.org or call **Elena Sabin** at 314.516.2753.

Annual Measles Initiative “Chocolate Roses” Fundraiser Coming Soon!

Volunteers are needed to make and sell roses

Did you know one measles vaccine costs **less than one dollar?**

The American Red Cross is part of the **Measles Initiative**, a worldwide movement to eradicate measles, the leading cause of vaccine-preventable death for children.

How You Can Help

Our annual Chocolate Roses Fundraiser kicks off in January and this year's goal is to make and sell **5,000 roses**. The roses are easy to make—we'll show you how. Each rose will sell

for \$2 on Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. We invite you to make roses and/or sell them at your office, school or organization. The roses practically sell themselves—who wouldn't want to buy their friend or loved one a flower that signifies two lives saved.

Last year, the St. Louis Area Chapter lead the country in Measles Initiative fundraising. With your help, we can once again buy the most measles vaccines for children in need around the world. ■



To help with this year's Chocolate Roses Fundraiser, please call **Mike Braeuninger** at 314.516.2737 or e-mail Mike at mbraeuninger@redcrossstl.org.



**American
Red Cross**

St. Louis Area Chapter

What Are Your Plans for the Future?

Through charitable gift planning, you can help your loved ones and your community

Nearly 22 years ago, **Joe Pereles**, now Vice President Development and General Counsel for Drury Inns, Inc., was having a conversation with then client Pete Duffy, an avid Red Cross volunteer. Pete asked Joe what he was doing to give back to his community. Joe, busy with his law practice and family, paused to consider Pete's question. Pete suggested Joe join the American Red Cross.

Convinced by his friend's passion, Joe began his volunteer career at the Red Cross by negotiating shelter agreements with local churches and synagogues. Joe also helped to develop a fundraising program to solicit small businesses to "Save the Day" for families needing assistance after a disaster.

As time went on, Joe grew to embrace the Red Cross movement. But on a cold February day in 1992, Joe's commitment to the Red Cross became a life-long bond.

That day a plane crashed next to the Drury Inn in Evansville, Indiana. Nine people were killed in the incident. Joe arrived at the crash sight to find a Red Cross emergency response vehicle helping company employees, guests, and the emergency responders on the scene. It was a pivotal moment for Joe.

Since that day, Joe has become a respected leader within the Red Cross, both locally and nationally. Today, Joe is serving his second term on the National Board of Governors for the American Red Cross. In this role, Joe helps shape and guide the Red Cross at the national level. He served on the search committee that recruited the Red Cross's new President and CEO, **Gail McGovern**, and helped to improve Red Cross response methods after Hurricane Katrina.



The Pereles Family from left to right: Rachel, David, Joe, Brenda and Natalie

Joe has committed thousands of volunteer hours to the Red Cross over the years. He has also made a financial commitment to the Red Cross. Joe is a firm believer that you cannot ask anyone for time or money if you are not willing to give yourself. So with that attitude, Joe and his wife Brenda researched planned giving and found the plan that was perfect for them. By leaving the Red Cross in their estate plan, not only will the Pereles' immediate family be taken care of for years to come, but their Red Cross family will as well.

For more information on planned giving, please contact **Mark Winer** at 314.516.2785 or winerm@usa.redcross.org.

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 **Kevin Swoboda** for correctly answering our last Red News quiz question:

Q: Which disaster—floods, fires or earthquakes—are most Americans at greatest risk for in an average year?

A: Floods.

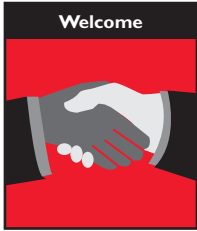
Here is your next opportunity to win! ▶

Send your answer to **Stephanie Landess** at slandess@redcrossstl.org or 314.516.2756 and you will be entered to win a Red Cross Disaster Supply Kit—a \$40 value! ■

QUESTION
True or False: During an earthquake you should try to get outdoors.

Kevin Swoboda





Red Cross Welcomes 34 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 over **1,500** in the Greater St. Louis area to carry out our mission. Thank you for giving so generously of your time. Welcome to the folks who have joined the Chapter between August and October 2008:

Name	Service Center	Job
Anna Alexandrov	Headquarters	DAT
Bethany Baker	Headquarters	DAT
Jim Bubash	Headquarters	DAT
Kitty Buttermore	Headquarters	DSHR
Robin Carlton	Headquarters	DAT
Barbara Chambers	Headquarters	DSHR
Rosemary Dixson	Metro East	DAT
Madeleine Donovan	Headquarters	DAT
Elizabeth Flynn	Headquarters	DAT
Kathleen Foster	Headquarters	DSHR/DHS
David Fuller	Jefferson County	DAT
Emily Goehring	Headquarters	DSHR
Pierre Hakim	Headquarters	DAT
Ashley Hanson	Headquarters	DAT
Kyrus Harrington	Headquarters	DAT
Anthony Harrison	Metro East	DAT
Erin Hines	Headquarters	DAT

Name	Service Center	Job
Jan Holmes	St. Charles County	DAT
Yvonne Hootselle	Metro East	DAT
Bryan Howard	Headquarters	SAF
Jacqueline Hubbard	Headquarters	DAT
John Kelley	Headquarters	DAT
Amelia Kinter	Headquarters	CS
Carlette Lewis-Rhone	Headquarters	DSHR
Christine Magett	Metro East	DAT
Rebecca McBrady	Headquarters	DAT/DSHR
Bernadine McNabb	Jefferson County	DAT/DHS
Jesse McNabb	Jefferson County	DAT
Diana Schmitt	Headquarters	DAT
Kathie Soehngen	Jefferson County	DAT/DSHR
Shirley Strom	Headquarters	DAT
Kevin Swoboda	Jefferson County	DAT
Dan Watt	Headquarters	DAT
Beth Whittington	Metro East	DAT

CS = Client Services
 DAT = Disaster Action Team Member
 Dispatch = Disaster Services Communications Center Dispatcher

DHS = Disaster Health Services
 DSHR = Disaster Services Human Resources Member
 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.
- Ben Hur Construction Company
- Commerce Bancshares Foundation
- 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
- Lilly Christy Busch Hermann Charitable Foundation
- Lohr Distributing Company
- Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan Charitable Foundation
- Midwest BankCentre
- Monsanto Fund
- Nationwide Foundation
- Offield Family Foundation
- Pershing Charitable Trust
- Sigma-Aldrich Corporation
- Simmons Charitable Foundation
- Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation
- State Farm Insurance Companies
- Swift Family Trust
- Target
- Tenet Health Care Foundation, St. Louis University Hospital, Des Peres Hospital
- The PrivateBank
- UniGroup, Inc.
- United Way of Greater St. Louis
- US Bancorp Foundation
- William T. Kemper Foundation-Commerce Bank Trustee

RED NEWS

American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter

Any feedback? Like additional copies of Red News? Prefer to receive an electronic copy of Red News instead of a printed copy? 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.





**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



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Just In Time For the Holidays

Get everyone on your list a Red Cross weather radio!

Are you wondering what to give your friends and family this holiday season?

The Eton FR150 is the ultimate gadget for every household. Set it in the sun or crank by hand to power the flashlight, radio and cell-phone charger. This radio retails for \$30 but through the month of December, Red Cross volunteers can purchase radios for just \$22.

Get yours today! Proceeds from your purchase benefit the American Red Cross.



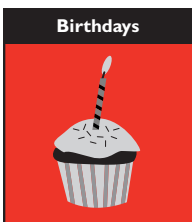
**To order Red Cross Health and Safety products call 314.516.2724.
Visit www.redcrossstl.org to view other items in our Red Cross store.**

CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS

American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter ■ Emergency Services ■ Winter, 2009 ■ Volume 5 Issue 1

NEWS

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



Happy Birthday Celebrate and enjoy your day

Donna Null	1/1
Crystal Botkin	1/2
Joanie Knappenberger	1/4
Michele Mareschal	1/4
Tim Mosley	1/7
Chris Schneiders	1/8
Pat Andre	1/11
Sandra Becker- Warden	1/12
Jean Amptmann	1/14
Dallas Leavitt	1/14
Tim Ogier	1/14
Dena Stokes	1/14
Gordon Whitehead	1/14
DaVette Wade	1/15
Jennifer Lockwood	1/16
Gabe Smith	1/16
Liz Downey	1/18
Bradley Irwin	1/18
Michelle Van Der Beck	1/18
Kelli Glasco	1/20
James Sisson	1/20

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Chapter Headquarters Welcomes Winter after Busy Hurricane Season

Thank you volunteers for your dedication to those in our community and beyond

By Mary Anderson, Director of Disaster Readiness and Response

As we welcome winter, we can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that hurricane season is over and that the recent floods are now behind us. Thank you to our more than 100 volunteers and staff who responded and helped those affected by the hurricanes, both here at home and along the Southern Coast. Now, all we can hope for is a few quiet months so our volunteers can catch their breath and prepare for the spring.

Amidst flooding in St. Louis, our Disaster Action Team (DAT) members and team leaders stayed busy during the months of August, September and October. They responded to **154 fires**, assisted **439 individuals** and provided canteen services to **2,478 emergency responders**. Thank you to everyone who responded. Whether you were called to a fire or not, your time is greatly appreciated.

In early August, **Norman Bellairs**, **Dan Faber** and **Janie Miller** assisted a family with emergency food and lodging after their house in Castle Point caught fire. The next day, **Rick Barnett** and **Tammy O'Hara** were called back to the area to provide cold drinks and snacks to emergency responders working a traffic incident in the extreme heat. As the heat continued, several Operation Weather Survival cooling centers were activated in



Dan Stokes



Bill Young

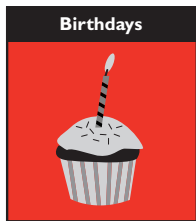
St. Louis City. **Mayer Levy**, **Dan Stokes**, **Dena Stokes**, and **Bill Young** delivered cambros of cold water to the Prince Hall center on Newstead and the Human Development Corporation on Martin Luther King Dr.

The first day of each month seems to bring some of our largest DAT responses and September was no exception. On September 1, **Mary**

Ann Blake, **Elaine Hegel** and **Barbara Johnson**, along with Dispatcher **Barbara Ann Barbato**, responded to an **eight unit apartment fire**. The team quickly went to work assessing needs and providing emergency assistance to **four families**. Great job, everyone!

At the end of September, our DAT had **22 responses** in a **three day** period. On September 22, **Bill Ficklin**, **Elaine Hegel** and **Barbara Johnson** provided emergency food and clothing to families at **two fire scenes**. The next day, **Amelia Kinter**, **Mayer Levy** and **Dan Stokes** delivered **four clean up kits** to flood clients and assisted **three families** affected by residential fires. That same night, **Dan Faber**, **Janie Miller** and **Pam Smith** responded

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Karen Leonard	1/21
Becky Schuettpelz	1/23
Judy Alferman	1/29
Barbara Lawshea	1/30
Stacy Dotson	1/31
John Kelley	2/1
Michael Maguire	2/2
Renee' Washington	2/2
Barbara Ann Barbato	2/4

Wanda Bellairs	2/4	Ron Wunsch	2/23	Daniel Meehan	3/5
Lois Flippen	2/6	Catherine Donovan	2/24	Urban Schwartz	3/5
Kathy Koch	2/9	Dianne Carty	2/25	Jennifer Morgan	3/7
Jim Conley	2/10	Obeth Maipandi	2/25	Lynda Dahlen	3/10
Jim Moore	2/11	Bob Griscom	2/26	Vinod Sivadas	3/12
Kathleen Foster	2/12	Barb Paulus	2/26	J. Tom Becker	3/15
Joe Farhatt	2/14	Ntasiah Shaw	2/26	Erin Hines	3/15
Liz Goss	2/14	Lonnie Williams	2/26	Nicole Maidens	3/16
Sharon Ryback	2/14	Sarah Oldham	2/27	Dave Whitfield	3/17
Dan Telle	2/14	Jim Sparks	2/28	Lynne Curtis	3/19
Jane Miller	2/16	Ashley Hanson	3/1	Dennis Gusky	3/20
Dulce Dayawon	2/17	Curtis Simpson	3/1	Joseph Schwarzbauer	3/20
Elizabeth Flynn	2/18	Kalesha Edington	3/2	Allan Ellis	3/22
Phyllis Oppliger	2/18	Amelia Kinter	3/2	Teresa Roberson-	
Greg Hoette	2/20	Lynne Marshall-		Mullins	3/23
Jeremy James	2/20	Johnson	3/3	Tammie Lorden	3/24
Cindy Webb	2/21	Andy Tucker	3/3	Darlene Finkes	3/27
Rob DuBois	2/22	Heather Hegel	3/4	Mikel Monnett	3/27
Bonnie Walbran	2/23	Judy Jehling	3/4		

Chapter Headquarters Welcomes Winter after Busy Hurricane Season

continued from front

to **three fires** and helped **one family** with their clothing and food needs.

Thankfully the midnight to 8 a.m. shift was able to sleep soundly, but the calls began again the next morning. **Norman Bellairs, Kay Meyer** and **Jim Sparks** were called to **four fires**, performed one damage assessment and provided **one family** with assistance during their shift. Later that evening, **Mary Ann Blanke, Bob Marshak** and **Molly McHugh** visited two of the families who originally did not need assistance to provide them with emergency food, clothing and shelter.

On September 25, **Patti Nippe** and **Brian Woll** were called in the early morning hours to a boarding house fire where they provided emergency shelter and clothing to a client who had major damage to his room. Around lunchtime, as **Bob Bubenik,**



Brian Woll

Dick Bylund, Judy Jehling and **Joanie Knappenberger** learned of a family who experienced a kitchen fire. Luckily the client was able to stay with her daughter, so the team provided emergency food.

The 4 p.m. shift of **Crow Brozovich, Patty Lee, Steve Swift** and **Sandy White** later responded to another kitchen fire, providing food and clothing to the client. A huge thanks goes to everyone for being there



Sandy White

to respond and help meet the families' emergency needs. Thankfully, our number of responses went back to normal during October, giving our teams a well deserved rest.

During November, our volunteers were asked to canteen at two funeral services for St. Louis area emergency responders who gave their lives while protecting others. **Ntasiah Shaw** and **Sandy White** provided canteen services during the November 4 visitation for University City Police Sergeant **Michael King**. About one week later, on November 12, **Molly McHugh** and **Carl Moskowitz** provided canteen services at the visitation for St. Louis City firefighter **Leonard Riggins**, who was shot and killed while assisting a motorist after an accident. **Angela Hakim** and **Donna Peters** were on hand the following day at the funeral. Our

thoughts are with the families of these men.

While DAT members help people after emergencies, our **Community Disaster Education** presenters work hard to provide lifesaving preparedness information throughout St. Louis City and County. Volunteers **Wanda Bellairs, Barbara Dierstein** and **Curt Overbey**, along with AmeriCorps members **Danaé Dimmick** and staff members **Clare Cole, Corrine Kiefer, Alexa Pippin, Elena Sabin** and **Drenda Underwood**, reached **16,644 individuals** in local businesses, organizations and schools through **352 disaster related presentations**. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the mission of the Red Cross. You're doing a great job!

We may be welcoming winter, but it is important to be aware of potential hazards such as cold weather conditions and dangerous storms. Make sure your family has a disaster supplies kit and emergency plan. If you are unsure about what supplies to have on hand, visit our website for a checklist of helpful items.

Again, a heartfelt thanks goes to all of our volunteers for donating your valuable time and energy to help thousands of people each year in the St. Louis community. Thanks for a great year. ■



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	Name	Start Date	Years of Service
Pat Lemley	1/07	2	Robert Wills	1/98	11	Daniel Christmas	3/06	3
Jennifer Morgan	1/07	2	Bob Schenk	1/91	18	Carol Dettleff	3/06	3
Sarah Oldham	1/07	2	Chris Bellers	2/08	1	Bill Feaser	3/06	3
Terry Sanders	1/07	2	Margot Sickles	2/08	1	Anita Isenberg	3/06	3
Elizabeth Schasteen	1/07	2	LaVerne Worley	2/08	1	Kevin Jaskiewicz	3/06	3
Heidi Scott	1/07	2	Cindy Zehner	2/08	1	Jim Knappenberger	3/06	3
Steve Swift	1/07	2	Kelly Battley	2/07	2	Evelyn Shickman	3/06	3
Michelle Van Der Beck	1/07	2	Amy Bonsall	2/07	2	Bob Shive	3/06	3
Sara Weiner	1/07	2	Tori Corradi	2/07	2	Marshall Works	3/06	3
Jennifer Spencer	1/06	3	Rev. William Engfehr III	2/07	2	Dianne Carty	3/05	4
Joe Harper	1/05	4	Curtis Simpson	2/07	2	Ann Crowley	3/05	4
Joanie Knappenberger	1/05	4	Janette Dietzler	2/05	4	Kate Drewry	3/05	4
Sharon Ryback	1/05	4	Stephanie Raven	2/04	5	Jeremy James	3/05	4
Erin Savage	1/05	4	Marie Major	2/03	6	Steve Reiss	3/05	4
Colleen Strohmeier	1/05	4	Larry Conant	2/00	9	Dan Telle	3/05	4
Rick Barnett	1/03	6	Elliott Franklin	2/99	10	Darlene Finkes	3/04	5
Judy Jehling	1/03	6	Bob Bubenik	3/08	1	Ami Neiser	3/04	5
Greg Stevens	1/03	6	Stacy Dotson	3/08	1	Mark Turken	3/04	5
John Garavaglia	1/02	7	Carol Gano	3/08	1	Jack Wahl	3/04	5
Cheryl Kirchgessner	1/02	7	Peggy North-Jones	3/08	1	Mikel Monnett	3/03	6
Kevin Kirchgessner	1/02	7	Steffi Tatum Dite	3/08	1	Marilyn Maguire	3/02	7
Sandy Soll	1/02	7	Cindy Webb	3/08	1	Mike Maguire	3/02	7
Lou Maul IV	1/99	10	La'Ondrill Brown	3/07	1	Gladys Stannard	3/02	7
Jim Oberholz	1/99	10	Melanie Brown	3/07	2	Norman Bellairs	3/98	11
Margaret Phillips	1/99	10	Deborah Nickens	3/07	2	Patti Nippe	3/97	12
Jim Hamann	1/98	11	Peggy Powell	3/07	2	Dennis Foshe	3/95	14
			Tiffany Borrine	3/06	3			



American Red Cross

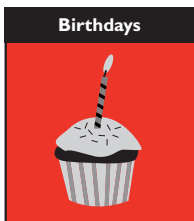
St. Louis Area Chapter

METRO EAST SERVICE CENTER

American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter ■ Emergency Services ■ Winter, 2009 ■ Volume 5 Issue 1

NEWS

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



Happy Birthday
 Celebrate and enjoy your day

Jim Ford	1/19
Mike Murphy	2/10
Stephanie Smith	2/11
Yvonne Hootselle	2/14
Don Bergmann	2/18
Cindy Kelly	2/19
Cathy Murphy	2/25
Rae Ellen Vogeler	2/26
Donna Wiesen	3/5
Jim Sharp	3/30

Metro East Service Center Welcomes Winter after Busy Hurricane Season

Thank you volunteers for your dedication to those in our community and beyond

By Sandy Vaughn, Service Center Supervisor

Being busy seems to be a theme at the Metro East Service Center. Between our volunteers deploying to communities around the country to support with their emergency relief efforts and helping families in local communities, the fall went by quickly.

Despite having already responded to local flooding over the summer, several of our volunteers were deployed to assist with Hurricanes Gustav, Ike and Omar. **Don Barkley** provided assistance to those in the Virgin Islands affected by Hurricane Omar. **Al Boucher** served on his first national



Al Boucher

assignment in Louisiana for Hurricane Gustav, came home to rest for one week and then deployed to Texas in response to Hurricane Ike. Volunteers **Craig Fleming, Bob Whitlow** and **Mike Wood** also spent several weeks working on the front lines and behind the scenes along the Southern Coasts helping those affected by the hurricanes.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Ike's damage moved into the Midwest in mid-September causing severe flash flooding in the Greater St. Louis area. Illinois towns affected by the floods included East St. Louis, Granite City, Belleville, Cahokia, O'Fallon and Centreville. Thank you to our hardworking volunteers and staff members who helped



Walt and Denise Wallheimer

our Metro East neighbors when flooding affected their homes: **Connie Bergmann, Don Bergmann, Bill Thien, Jackie Trice, Denise Wallheimer** and **Walt Wallheimer**.

Our DAT members and team leaders also stayed busy during the months of August, September and October. They responded to **62 fires**, assisted **158 individuals** and provided canteen services to **1,392 emergency responders**. Thank you to all of our volunteers who responded: **Don Bergmann, Al Boucher, Dave Daly, Mel Embrich, Brian Evans, Angela Faith, Craig Fleming, Jim Ford, Jim Keleman, Cindy Kelly, Bryan Kohler, Stacy Milligan, Cathy Murphy, Mike Murphy, June Pierson, Alicia Self, Desiree Sierra, Tonda Van Hoose, Rae Ellen Vogeler, Denise Wallheimer, Walt Wallheimer, Bob Whitlow** and **Donna Whitlow**. You all make it happen!

continued on back

Metro East Service Center Welcomes Winter after Busy Hurricane Season

continued from front



Bob Whitlow

We had several memorable DAT experiences these past three months. The first happened in early September when **Connie Bergmann** and **Jackie Trice** went to a hotel to assist a fire client unable to come to the office. After knocking on the door, Jackie (who, as many know, is not fond of dogs) was greeted by a large Rottweiler. Connie later told us that if Jackie could have climbed on her to get away, she probably would have. Thankfully, the dog behaved and Jackie and Connie were able to provide assistance.

The second experience happened in late September when **Cathy Murphy** and **Mike Murphy** responded to a fire in Cahokia. Cathy and Mike arrived on the scene and were instructed to stay back as four fire departments battled the blaze.

As Cathy and Mike canteened, they learned one of the fire clients had assaulted a firefighter because he wanted back in his home. Shortly after, Illinois State Police, Cahokia Police and the U.S. Marshalls arrived on scene.

Cathy and Mike then learned another firefighter had fallen off the roof and was injured. Cathy quickly grabbed our first aid kit and offered the injured firefighter an ice pack. It was quite a day. Thank you to these two for lending a hand.

Our AmeriCorps, VISTA members and **Community Disaster Education (CDE)** presenters have also been busy these past few months. From August to October, they reached **5,967 individuals** through **216 presentations** in our three county area. Great job everyone and keep up the great work!

Starting on December 1, our caseworkers and volunteers began assisting clients through the Warm Neighbors Program, an annual program sponsored by Ameren IP

and designed to help Illinois residents with their utility bills. Stay tuned in the next *Red News* for more details on the number of families who benefited from this program.

When you come to the office, you will see a new face. While it was sad to see **Rosalie Braeutigam** retire, it is with great pleasure that I introduce **Kelly**

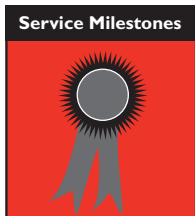


Kelly Briggs

Briggs, our new Health and Safety associate. Kelly has stepped right in and made herself at home. Next time you're in the area, stop by, introduce yourself and help make Kelly feel

even more welcome.

Thanks again to all of our volunteers for your support and commitment to the Red Cross and the Metro East community. We look forward to working with you during the upcoming year. ■



Red Cross Recognizes Service Milestones

Thank you for your years of service!

Name	Start Date	Years of Service	Name	Start Date	Years of Service
Al Boucher	1/07	2	Rae Ellen Vogeler	1/96	13
Viveka Ferrell	1/07	2	Idaria Kerr	2/07	2
Bill Micka	1/05	4	Yaneka Willis	2/07	2
Bob Whitlow	1/05	4	Jim Determan	2/93	16
David Caisse	1/99	10	Michelle Devan	3/07	2
Donna Wiesen	1/99	10	Jim Sharp	3/05	4



American Red Cross

St. Louis Area Chapter

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



Happy Birthday

Celebrate and enjoy your day

Karen Wamble	1/3
Carolynn James	1/12
John Senn	1/12
Yolonda Stringer	1/15
Fran Nolting	1/26
Jay Steinberg	2/10
Mike Fieser	2/12
Albert Panei II	2/15
Bev Eggering	2/17
Charles Williamson IV	2/17
Bob Murphy	2/19
Mark Rosenblum	3/3
Albert Pease	3/6
John Rolfes	3/13
Mark Senda	3/15
Larry Boyer	3/31

St. Charles County Service Center Welcomes Winter after Busy Hurricane Season

Thank you volunteers for your dedication to those in our community and beyond

By Brad Farber, Service Center Supervisor

After our third flood in six months, our hardworking and dedicated volunteers deserve a long rest. Thank you to all of our volunteers who responded to help those affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, both here at home and along the Southern Coast.

When Hurricane Ike's damage moved into the Midwest in mid-September causing severe flash flooding in the St. Louis Metro area, the Red Cross was there. With your help, we were able to respond and meet local families' needs, while keeping up with our day-to-day operations. Way to go team!

Our **Disaster Action Team (DAT)** members did a great job multi-tasking during the last round of flooding. They responded to **12 fires**, assisted **11 families** and provided canteen services to **138 emergency responders** during August, September and October. As always, the families and emergency responders were relieved to see us arrive on the scene. Thank you to

Sandy Irwin, Forrest Routh, John Meisenbacher and Micah Conner

all of our volunteers who responded: **Larry Boyer, Loretta Buehrle, Micah Conner, Michelle Fieser, Mike Fieser, Joe Fogg, Bob Fortner, Loretta Fortner, Jeff Fugate, Lavon Gilliland, Jan Holmes, Sandy Irwin, Allan Kalmar, John Meisenbacher, Theresa Meisenbacher, Paul Mueller, Bob Murphy, Forrest Routh, Pat Routh, Mark Senda, Pat Sheeley, John Stamelos, Bev Relford, and Karen Wamble.** The Red Cross is able to provide food, clothing and shelter to local families because of your help!

On Sunday, September 28, DAT members **Mark Senda** and **John Stamelos** had an interesting experience while on their way to a barn fire in Wentzville. Mark and John got quite a surprise when their left rear tire blew out. Thinking quickly, John slowed down, pulled to the side of the road and made two phone calls. The first was to AAA for assistance and the second was to notify County Dispatch about the delay.

Once AAA arrived and changed the tire, Mark and John thought their worries were over. Unfortunately, when they got back in the truck, it wouldn't start. After another couple of phone calls, the truck was towed to the nearest dealership. Mark and John were told that evidently when the tire blew, there was enough force to cause the underside of the truck to hit the

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St. Charles Service Center Welcomes Winter after Busy Hurricane Season

continued from front

pavement. When this happened, the fuel line became dented and some wiring was damaged. Needless to say, we weren't able to respond to the barn fire, but Wentzville Fire Chief Bornhop was very understanding and thanked us for our support.



Karen Wamble, Lavon Gilliland, Chet Mika and Loretta Buehrle,

While the truck was being repaired, we borrowed one from our Chapter Headquarters so that we could continue serving St. Charles County residents. In hindsight, the next time one of our vehicles gets towed, we should probably remove the cambros first. A big thank you to **Lavon Gilliland** for cleaning everything

once our truck returned to the office.

Our **Community Disaster Education (CDE)** presenters have also been busy these past few months. **Bill Dennager** and **Jean Smith**, along with staff member **TJ Runge**, have educated **4,277 individuals** through **70 presentations** in August, September and October. Thank you for helping us spread the message of preparedness before, during and after disasters. What a great start to this year's goal of reaching 16,500 county residents!

We would also like to thank **Alexis Esquivel**. Alexis is an intern from Lindenwood University and helps keep our materials stocked, design new posters, and log and schedule presentations. We are very thankful that Alexis chose to complete her internship with us. She has proven to be an invaluable resource. Welcome, Alexis!

On Saturday, September 13, St. Charles County Red Cross volunteers and St. Charles County CERT members participated in a disaster exercise simulating a major earthquake in the St. Louis Metro



John Stamelos

Area. During the exercise, CERT members practiced the knowledge obtained at a Partner Shelter Workshop in August. **Loretta Buehrle, Mark Senda, and John Stamelos** guided the group through setting up and running a shelter. The exercise went well and helped everyone understand one of the roles our organization plays during disasters.

The 9th Annual Volunteer and Community Partner Appreciation Luncheon date has been set for Friday, March 20, 2009, at the Stegton Regency Banquet Center in St. Charles. There is a lot to accomplish prior to the event, and **Jean Smyth**, luncheon committee chair, could use your help. Please contact us at the Service Center if you are interested in being part of the committee. Also, award nomination forms will be sent out soon. Complete yours and send it back right away so that your nomination can be considered!

Mark your calendars for the next few volunteer meetings:

When: 3rd Saturday of the month—
January 17, February 21,
March 21

Time: 9:00a-10:30a

Location: Non Profit Development Center, 425 Spencer Road, St. Peters, MO 63376 behind Spencer Library

A heartfelt thanks goes to all of our volunteers for donating your valuable time and energy, and for the hundreds of people you help each year in the St. Charles area. You truly are the heart and soul of this organization. We couldn't do it without you! ■

Service Milestones

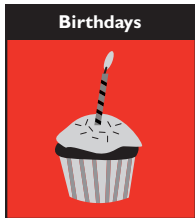


Red Cross Recognizes Service Milestones

Thank you for your years of service!

Name	Start Date	Years of Service	Name	Start Date	Years of Service
Chet Mika	1/06	3	Paul Mueller	2/05	4
Yolonda Stringer	1/06	3	Michelle Fieser	3/08	1
Pam Donley	1/05	4	Mike Fieser	3/08	1
John Meisenbacher	1/05	4	Albert Panei II	3/08	1
Theresa Meisenbacher	1/05	4	Kevin Hamilton	3/07	2
Jean Smyth	1/05	4	Joy Hamilton	3/07	2
Tammy Green	1/02	7	Robert Miller	3/07	2
John Stamelos	1/84	25	Gary Pierson	3/07	2
Ingrid Casillo	2/08	1	Pat Routh	3/07	2
Allen Kalmar	2/08	1	Jerry Venteicher	3/06	3
Jessica Koester	2/07	2	Kathy Blundon	3/03	6
Forrest Routh	2/06	3	Linda Johnson	3/03	6

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



Happy Birthday

Celebrate and
enjoy your day

Kathie Soehngen	1/5
Gary Ogle	1/8
Gina Brenon	1/15
Cheryl Richardson	1/19
Jesse McNabb	2/4
Cindy Osborn	2/11
Joan McKenzie	2/27
Kathie Shedron	3/14
Jim Sullivan	3/23
Leslie Kumke	3/28

Jefferson County Service Center Welcomes Winter after Busy Hurricane Season

Thank you volunteers for your dedication to those in our
community and beyond

By Dale Chambers, Service Center Supervisor

Red Cross volunteers help people every-day both here at home and around the nation through Disaster Services Human Resources (DSHR), Disaster Action Team (DAT) responses, community disaster education and much more. This fall was no exception as Hurricane Ike made landfall along the Southern Coast and the St. Louis Metro Area.

Despite having already responded to local flooding over the summer, several of our volunteers were deployed to assist with Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. On their way out of town, **Charlie Meyer** and **Gary Ogle** were interviewed by KSDK Channel 5. The station showed Charlie receiving his disaster staff card and asked questions about his assignment. Charlie represented the Red Cross very well, while the camera shy Gary said he was glad he didn't make it on television. Our own **Teena Kilo**, **Jim Ulbrich**, **Sheila Ulbrich** and **Robert Vinluan** also spent several weeks working on the front lines and behind the scenes along the Southern Coasts helping those affected by the hurricanes.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Ike's damage moved into the Midwest in mid-September causing severe flash flooding in the Jefferson County Area. The local 911 called to let us know a "water evacuation" would be underway. In response, our volunteers and staff members tirelessly worked to help **35 families** in the Jefferson County area when

flooding affected their homes: **Phyllis Hahn**, **Leslie Kumke**, **Jerry Lambing**, **Charlie Meyer**, **Clara Meyer**, **Tom Murry**, **Tom Richardson** and **Sue**



Tom Richardson

Scotino. These volunteers worked long hours to provide assistance ranging from clean up kits to replacement food and clothing. Thank you everyone for helping our neighbors in their time of need.

Although the number of DAT responses slowed down, our DAT members and team leaders were still at work providing emergency food, clothing and shelter to families affected by local fires. During August, September and October, our hardworking crews responded to **11 fires**, assisted **11 families** and provided canteen services to **81 emergency responders**. Thank you to all of our volunteers who responded, both in communities around the country and here at home.

Our **Community Disaster Education (CDE)** presenters have also been busy these past few months. They continue to expand their reach into new schools and organizations throughout Jefferson County. From August through October, **Celestia Gaudreault**, **Tom Murry**, **Tom Richardson**, **Sue Scotino** and **Jerry Stevens** reached **1,014 individuals** living, working and playing in Jefferson County.

continued on back

Jefferson County Service Center Welcomes Winter after Busy Hurricane Season

continued from front

Keep up the great work! We are well on our way to reaching this year's goal of educating 11,000 people on disaster preparedness.

On Saturday, September 27, volunteers **Janet Olson** and **Jim Morgan**



Janet Olson

represented the Red Cross at the 15th Annual Jefferson County Fire Engine Rally. Janet drove our DAT vehicle in the parade, while Jim set up a disaster

awareness booth. Janet later mentioned she felt like she was driving the smallest vehicle in the parade next to all of those fire trucks! After the parade, Janet and Jim teamed up to talk about the services and programs we offer and helped children learn about disaster preparedness. Jim and Janet mentioned the favorite activity was, of course, the Disaster Wheel!

When you come to the office, you will see a new face. It is with great pleasure that



Libby Sandridge

I introduce **Libby Sandridge**, our new Administrative Assistant. Libby is a Jefferson County native and has stepped right in and made herself at home.

Next time you're in the area, stop by, introduce yourself and help make Libby feel welcome.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who filled in with administrative functions during the transition: **Phyllis Hahn, Teena Kilo, Leslie Kumke, Carie Lammert, Shirley Marino, Charlie Meyer, Janet Olson** and **Sue Scotino**.



Shirley Marino

Additionally, **Lauren Newton**, has been working diligently in the office, preparing duty calendars, making reminder calls and

keeping things running smoothly. I am

convinced that all of you helped keep the office together.

There are more new faces around the office. Please join me in welcoming our new volunteers: **David Fuller, Bernadine McNabb, Jesse McNabb, Kathie Soehngen** and **Kevin Swoboda**. These five answered the call to volunteer and are now serving in a variety of positions both here and at Chapter Headquarters. Welcome everyone. We look forward to working with you!

As you look through *Red News*, you might notice a change or two in regard to our volunteer recognition program. This year we will be holding our annual Volunteer Award Dinner in the spring instead of the summer months, so stay tuned for more information as we start to plan for this great event!

In closing, I want to thank our volunteers for a great year. With your help, we were able to reach out to hundreds of people in the Jefferson County area in their time of need. ■

Service Milestones



Red Cross Recognizes Service Milestones

Thank you for your years of service!

Name	Start Date	Years of Service
Clarabelle Meyer	1/08	1
Joan McKenzie	2/07	2
Cheryl Richardson	2/01	8
Tom Richardson	2/01	8
Steven McKenzie	3/07	2



American Red Cross

St. Louis Area Chapter