



**American
Red Cross**
Of Lee County Chapter
www.arclcc.org



The Volunteer Voice January/February 2010

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January to March 2010

American Red Cross of Lee County

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Ft. Myers, FL 33966

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FROM THE DESK OF HEIDI RUSTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wow, here we are, another decade is upon us! We are so fortunate to live in such an amazing place with incredible people like you that make our place in paradise so wonderful!! Many of us, our chapter and community have been dealing with some trying economic times. Thankfully, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel, and with the full community supporting each other we are coming out on the other side, a stronger, more resilient and positive place.

Many of you are aware that we are in the process of finalizing a lease on a potential new location. If and when our new location is determined, we will have significantly less cost, a more visible and larger location. Our hope is to move into a new location by the end of June 2010. We will need some assistance with the moving process and help with some remodeling. Please be on the lookout for communication regarding these needs.

Development

Due to deficiencies, we, along with Red Crossers across the county and our Non-Profit partners, have made some adjustments with expenses and thinking "outside the box" for revenue. We realize that many of our volunteers are also donors and your support is greatly appreciated!

Our direct mail and major gift income has improved, measurably over the holidays, but we are significantly down in our budget (about \$70,000). We have received some unexpected planned gifts that make a difference in our budget.

In addition, our other income streams come from Special Events and our upcoming events. We would greatly appreciate your attendance or volunteer support at the following:

StarStruck March 13, 2010

International Design Center, Florida

Please join us for this spectacular fundraiser to benefit the programs and services of the American Red Cross Lee County Chapter. Lee County celebrities will compete with professional dancers for top recognition. This year's competitors include: **Deirdre Mann, CEO Family Thrift; Samira Beckwith, CEO Hope Healthcare; Sonya Sawyer, CFO Home Tech; John Iacuone, CEO Children's Hospital-Lee Memorial Health System; Roman Gomez, Artist/Photographer.** More information can be found on our website.

Heroes Campaign March, 2010/ **Kick Off February 22, 2010, Angelina's Ristorante**

This campaign is an opportunity for a variety of organizations, religious entities and businesses to become heroes for the American Red Cross. We ask that organizations/individuals raise at least \$1000 to become a Hero for the American Red Cross during Red Cross Month! Please contact the chapter for more information to become a Hero, serve on the committee and/or sponsor an event.

FROM THE DESK OF HEIDI RUSTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

American Red Cross Volunteer Statistics FY 09

Total Volunteers	661,871
Total Employees	33,946
Total Staff (Volunteers + Employees)	695,817
Total volunteer blood donors	3,765,646
Total financial donors	1,493,357
US Population	309,731,539
Volunteers Comprise	95% of all Red Cross Workers
The ratio of volunteers to employees is	19 to 1
Volunteers and Volunteer Blood Donors	4,427,517
Volunteers, Blood Donors and Financial Donors total	5,920,874
1 of every	468 Americans is a Red Cross Volunteer
1 of every	70 Americans is a Red Cross Volunteer or Volunteer Blood Donor
1 of every	52 Americans is a Red Cross Volunteer, Volunteer Blood or Financial Donor

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS - MICHELLE PERCELLO

Happy New Year! We are off to a busy start with preparations on the float and gearing up for the Edison Festival of Light Parade on Feb 20th. We want to encourage all volunteers to become involved with the float building process. We have little and big projects to do. There is something for everyone and for the first time ever we are building a small float to put in the Junior Parade on Feb 14th. We welcome your ideas and help for the new "Scrubby Bear" Float! Maybe you are good with music and can make a CD for music to be played during the parades, or maybe you have marched in parades and could help with the line up or decorating or something else? Thank you in advance to all of the volunteers who will contribute much of their time and talents to this great project. We only have 5 weeks until the Junior Parade! I will keep you updated on work days, etc. via emails. My email address is: mc1@arclcc.org. Just let me know if you would like to be added to our e-mail list.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Community Programs Quarterly Meeting has been changed from 3/10 to Tue. 3/9 - 6:30 pm at the chapter

AMERICORPS DISASTER SERVICES (ANN BOEHM)

AmeriCorps members would like to thank all of the Red Cross volunteers who contributed to our sock drive for the homeless. We appreciate your support!

We have many projects scheduled for Martin Luther King week (January 18th-25th). AmeriCorps members will be doing the following: 1) feeding the homeless; 2) preparing a meal for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House; 3) working at the Café of Life in Bonita Springs, and 4) assisting at the Community Cooperative Ministries (CCMI) soup kitchen.

ARMED FORCES COORDINATOR - JEREMY GENTILE

Our chapter of the Red Cross is currently reaching out to Veterans Organizations and Military Recruiters in Lee County. We are offering new services to our veterans in our community. We have a Veteran Family support group, once a month—Second Thursday at Perkins Family Restaurant meeting room 12300 S. Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers. Our chapter is starting a Military Affairs steering committee to help underserved active/veteran and military family populations in Lee County. The first meeting will be in early January 2010.

In addition, we are continuing to provide medically related transportation that is not available through the VA Clinic. These additional services are available because we have received resources provided through our National Organization and the Department of Defense. I would like to thank our volunteers who continue to provide excellent emergency communication and financial support to the military and their families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We always are in need of additional volunteer assistance to provide service to the Armed Forces.

DISASTER SERVICES - JOHN CAIN AND CARLENE SHARPLES

Hope that everyone made it through the holidays and had a wonderful time with family and friends!

First thing: we want to comment on – The H1N1 Swine Flu Clinics! To say that “You” shined is an understatement! The Red Cross of Lee County had, by far, the largest number of volunteers giving their time at the clinics than any other organization! We made a very positive impact and county officials with the Health Department and EOC told us repeatedly that this project would not have been possible without the support of Red Cross volunteers!!

Second thing: Please make sure that you turn in your volunteer hours to Staffing. It is each volunteer’s responsibility to keep track of their hours and to turn them in. Do not think this isn’t important! While your contribution is extremely important to us, a large amount of our funding is based on the accumulated number of volunteer hours that we report! So please – don’t deprive yourself of recognition or the chapter of much needed funds!

Third thing: Health forms are due – Yes, already! The Red Cross requires that all volunteers who wish to serve in a disaster, either locally, regionally, or nationally, MUST have a yearly Health Form filled out and on file at the chapter. Please fill yours out as soon as you receive it and return it to staffing.

Fourth thing: Just so you can plan ahead – The annual Volunteer Recognition and Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 8th, 2010, at The Boy Scouts of SW Headquarters Conference Center.

Fifth thing: Please remember to check our web-site for upcoming training classes held at the chapter. Also, the Collier County Chapter is offering a Mini-Disaster Training Institute in January – check the Collier County Red Cross web-site for more details: www.colliercountyredcross.org

Sixth thing: You are all, without a doubt, the Greatest Volunteers EVER – Anywhere! (just ask John or Carlene !)

Note: Hispanic Affairs is now called Diversity Services. All the activities and responsibilities will remain the same.

HEALTH & SAFETY SERVICES - KAREN PROHASKA

The start of a new year is the perfect time to remind our volunteers to keep up their CPR/AED certifications so they will be current if deployed. We will be holding CPR/AED review classes for volunteers throughout the year. This will preclude you from taking the basic class all over again – a time-saver because the review class is only 2 hours versus the full 4-hour class. First Aid is a 3- year certification and only needs to be reviewed every 3 years. Make sure you contact Alan Stafford to sign up for the correct recertification class. Happy New Year

AMERICAN RED CROSS LEE COUNTY CHAPTER DISASTER TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE

***** JANUARY 2010 - - MARCH 2010 *****

All classes are offered at the American Red Cross office at 6310 Techster Blvd., Suite #7, in the Disaster Training Classroom unless otherwise indicated. There is no charge for Disaster Classes, but all participants should call (239) 278-3401 to register. Contact Alan Stafford, Disaster Training Coordinator at the chapter office or email him at alans@arcfcc.org if you have any questions.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION: "TRANSLATING YOUR COMPASSION INTO COMMUNITY ACTION"

Alie Randlett / Luis Martinez, Instructors	Wednesday, January 27	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Alie Randlett / Michelle Percello, Instructors	Thursday, February 18	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Alie Randlett / Luis Martinez, Instructors	Wednesday, March 10	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
John Cain / Michelle Percello, Instructors	Wednesday, March 31	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This basic course introduces potential disaster volunteers to the principles, values, and mission of the American Red Cross. Participants are encouraged to assess their skills and determine potential areas of service within the framework of the Red Cross. This is a D.S.H.R. required course and a prerequisite for many Disaster Training Classes.

MASS CARE OVERVIEW: Open to Community Emergency Response Team Members (CERT)

Joe Pescatrice, Instructor	Saturday, January 9	9:30 – 12:30 p.m.
	Sat., Jan 9th class will be held at the Estero Community Center	
	Tuesday, February 2	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
	Saturday, February 27	9:00 – 12:00 p.m.
	Saturday, March 20	9:00 – 12:00 p.m.

This basic class provides an overview of the activities of the Community Service group in support of a disaster operation. This is a D.S.H.R. required course.

SERVING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FOLLOWING A DISASTER:

Lin Jensen / Alie Randlett, Instructors	Tuesday, January 12	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
	Saturday, February 6	9:00 – 12:00 p.m.
	Wednesday, February 24	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
	Thursday, March 18	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This class provides important information on the proper way of assisting people with disabilities during a shelter operation. This is a D.S.H.R. required course.

ERV's: READY, SET, ROLL: Attendees should bring lunch

Tom Conlin, Instructor	Saturday, January 30	9:00 – 5:00 p.m.
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This class enables Red Cross volunteers to operate an Emergency Response Vehicle and its equipment safely and effectively to meet feeding and other service needs of people affected by disaster. All participants should contact the Training Department to ensure all prerequisites are met prior to this class.

DISASTER INSTRUCTOR SPECIALTY TRAINING:

NOTE: Each attendee is required to complete the Fundamentals of Instruction and Facilitation self study materials prior to attending this class. A copy of FIF is available on CrossNet or from the Training Department.

Joe Pescatrice, Instructor	Monday, February 8	9:00 – 3:00 p.m..
	Tuesday, February 9	9:00 – 3:00 p.m..

This class is designed to prepare knowledgeable and experienced Disaster Services workers to teach basic-level disaster courses. Red Cross volunteers who have disaster relief experience and have demonstrated the ability to work effectively in group settings are encouraged to attend.

PARTNER AGENCY SHELTER OPERATIONS WORKSHOP:

Joe Pescatrice, Instructor Open to Community Emergency Response Team Members (CERT)
Thursday, January 21 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

This workshop provides CERT members and Red Cross volunteers pre-incident training and orientation to the activities and duties of partner agency shelter workers in a shelter operation.

FUNDAMENTALS OF DISASTER ASSESSMENT:

John Doramus / Carlene Sharples, Instructors Open to Community Emergency Response Team Members (CERT)
Monday, January 11 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 24 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This class introduces Red Cross volunteers and CERT members to the critical role of Disaster Assessment, explore related preparedness tasks, learn how to collect and communicate disaster assessment information, and become familiar with how disaster assessment information supports management and service delivery decisions. This class is required for all who desire to be a member of a Disaster Action Team.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS:

Dana Vargas / Bob Sansone, Instructors Wednesday, January 13 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Carlene Sharples / Dana Vargas, Instructors Monday, March 22 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

This class provides Red Cross volunteers with an understanding of how bloodborne pathogens are spread and how to help prevent exposure incidents by following work practice controls, protective equipment and good personal hygiene.

CLIENT CASEWORK: Providing Emergency Assistance

Attendees should bring lunch

Robin Moore / Jan George, Instructors Saturday, January 16 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.

This class enables Red Cross volunteers to meet the emergency disaster-caused needs of families on an individual basis following a fire, flood, or other disaster. This class is required for all who desire to be a member of a Disaster Action Team.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID:

Janet Michell, Instructor Saturday, February 13 9:00 – 1:00 p.m.

This class enables Red Cross volunteers to provide basic care, comfort and support to people who are experiencing disaster-related stress. This class is required for all who desire to be a member of a Disaster Action Team.

SHELTER OPERATIONS – AN OVERVIEW:

Joe Pescatrice, Instructor Thursday, February 11 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This class is designed for Red Cross volunteers to acquire knowledge of Red Cross policies and procedures for setting up, running and closing a shelter effectively and sensitively while meeting the needs of people displaced as a result of a disaster.

DISASTER FRONTLINE SUPERVISOR:

NOTE: An application for this course (5898H) is required and must be turned in two weeks before class. Applications are available in the Training Office.

Carlene Sharples / John Cain, Instructors Open to Community Emergency Response Team Members (CERT)
Thursday, January 14 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.

This class is designed to meet the training requirements for Red Cross volunteers to acquire a supervisor position in the Disaster Services Human Resources System by delivering high quality client service and to create a climate that promotes worker satisfaction.

