



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



The Volunteer Voice May & June 2010

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American Red Cross of Lee County

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FROM THE DESK OF HEIDI RUSTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

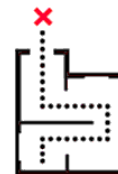
Here we are again – gearing up for a hopefully non-eventful hurricane season. There are predictions of stronger activity, and we just need to be as ready as possible – as a Red Cross Chapter, individual volunteers and our community. Please ensure you and your family are well prepared this season, as one should be all year round. This will ensure you will be available and ready to prepare and respond when needed at the American Red Cross.

Be Red Cross Ready

Get a kit



Make a plan



Be informed



Check out the following site: <http://www.redcross.org> (choose preparing).

This last month has been eventful in relation to activity with grant writing and putting in our United Way request and following up in regards to our StarStruck event. We also continue to support other American Red Cross Chapters as they deal with Disaster Relief in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. We have sent 8 individuals so far to a variety of locations, inclusive of caseworkers, mental health providers, Public Relation and Fundraising volunteer staff.

We are also planning our Annual Meeting on June 15 at the Edison Restaurant at 11:00 a.m. Please join us if you can. The cost is \$20; you can register by calling our office, 278-3401.

MOVING!!! We still hope to move into our new location in early June. Demolition of old walls has occurred and construction of new walls should be taking place in the very near future. Thanks to all for the incredible volunteer assistance with this project. Special thanks to Tom Lee and Carlene Sharples.

DEVELOPMENT – KARI HENNIGAN

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Starstruck was a big success, and a sold-out event for a second year in a row. Just wanted to update everyone that we surpassed our goal by \$50,000—thus, we brought in \$130,000 profit. Wow, this is amazing considering the economic downturn.

Note: There will be no newsletter July & August 2010

AMERICORPS DISASTER SERVICES - ANN BOEHM

AmeriCorps members piloted a program of working one-on-one with seniors, assisting them in the preparation of a medication log, emergency contact list and reviewing an important document check-off list. Members also reviewed the three actions: get a kit, make a plan and stay informed. While the program requires extra manpower (versus a presentation) and is done with a smaller audience, the benefit is the seniors are walking away with a piece of their important documents completed for their disaster kit. The program was well received, and we have several others scheduled for the next quarter. If you are interested in assisting in this program please, contact Ann Boehm at the chapter.

AmeriCorps members participated in the Drug House Odyssey (DHO) as one of our mandatory days of service. All of Lee County's 5th graders walked through a real life play of the consequences of drinking, drug-use and driving. DHO uses actual law enforcement, fire and rescue, and professionals in their demonstrations. This includes police officers, firemen, trauma doctors, State Attorneys, EMS responders and chaplains--re-enacting their roles in everyday life. Members assisted with the trauma scene and crowd control between scenes.

AmeriCorps members from both Lee and Collier counties will be celebrating AmeriCorps week (5/9-15) with a day of community service working at the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

AMERICORPS YOUTH SERVICES - SHARI STOTT

Thank you to all the youth volunteers that graciously gave up their spring break to work on our new American Red Cross chapter. Your hard work will be appreciated for years to come with all the accomplishments that will be achieved by our Lee County American Red Cross chapter staff and volunteers.

Anyone interested in working with our youth volunteers or have children/grandchildren that are interested in volunteering, please feel free to contact me at the chapter or see our web site www.arclcc.org, under volunteer corner. My email address is americorps03@arclcc.org.

HEALTH & SAFETY SERVICES - KAREN PROHASKA

The summer months are a great time for our volunteers to keep up/ensure your CPR/AED certifications are up-to-date so you 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 two hours versus the full four-hour class. First Aid is a three-year certification and only needs to be reviewed every three years. Be sure you contact Alan Stafford at our office (278-3401) to sign up for the correct recertification class. Happy summer!!

ARMED FORCES COORDINATOR - JEREMY GENTILE

We are 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. Pass this information on to any returning veterans or family members that you may know. We continue to help Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with financial support through the Florida Brave Grant.

In addition, we continue to provide medically related transportation that is not available through the VA Clinic. These additional services are available due to resources provided through the National Red Cross and the Department of Defense. As always, 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 need additional volunteer assistance with our Armed Forces program.

On May 17, 2010 we will be having a workshop for new and current volunteers; hope to see you there. For information on this workshop, please contact the Chapter.

DISASTER SERVICES - JOHN CAIN AND CARLENE SHARPLES

The **Volunteer Recognition Dinner** was a wonderful success! This year it started with a bit of a different twist. We began the evening with two groups providing entertainment, Speedy & his Break Dancers, plus the Calendar Girls. Both groups immediately put the room into a festive mood. Many thanks to the volunteers, who created a beautiful atmosphere with creative decorations and arrangements, at the Boy Scout Center. This year a new level of awards was presented--Volunteer of the Year for each activity, plus the overall Volunteer of the Year. The awards for each activity were based on the nominations of each of the activity leads. **Activity Volunteer of the Year Award Winners** are: **Mass Care Community Programs** Lou Martinez, Ray Randlett; **Partner Services**, Carmen Munoz; **H1N1**, Mary Wright; **Fundraising**, Pam Morrison; **Individual Client Services**, Robin Moore, and **Health & Safety**, Jennifer Roberts. A new award, entitled "**Spirit of the Red Cross**" was awarded to Carmen Munoz.

OVERALL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: ALAN STAFFORD

Alan received his richly deserved award to a standing ovation by everyone attending the ceremony.

The HSNS Comfort Awards were presented to **Simpson St. Fort** and **Joseph Gabriel** for their outstanding service aboard the hospital ship during the Haiti Relief Operation.

Years of Service Pins were awarded along with the **Presidential Service Awards and Medals**. This just highlights the tremendous work and gift of time given by all of our wonderful volunteers. The Red Cross could not do it without you.

Reiterating last month's comments from our Executive Director, an additional thank you goes out to the many volunteers who worked to make Star Struck the great success it was. Without your very hard work we could not have exceeded our goal in this troubled financial time. The funds raised by this event allow us to do what we need to do throughout the year to help the people in our community.

We are currently deploying volunteers to four different Disaster Relief Operations as follows: The tornado aftermath in Mississippi and Alabama; the tornado and flooding in Arkansas, and the flooding in Tennessee. At this time we have eight volunteers responding to these DRs and are actively recruiting additional individuals to go out. This has been a tough year weather-wise in many parts of the country. With the summer storm season upon us, it is likely we will be called upon to deploy volunteers to many areas of the country. Thus, please be sure your Health Status Form is current (2010) and on file at the Chapter. You cannot be deployed locally or nationally without a current Health Status Form.

COMMUNICATIONS - COLIN DOWNEY

If you haven't already noticed, our chapter now has its very own "blog". Simply put, a blog is an online chronicle of our recent events, programs and services. AmeriCorps members, Jeremy Service to the Armed Forces and me (Colin) are actively adding content to the blog as we try to keep our volunteers and the public more informed. There are easy-to-use comment boxes on each article and we very much encourage volunteer involvement. Even if it's a simple "good job", this back-and-forth interaction is highly valuable to us internally, to the public and to website search engines, which increase our website rankings if they see interactive blogs. To view our blog, visit our website arclcc.org and click on the big green "blog" link (you can't miss it). In the near future, our blog will be integrated into our brand new website, which is being developed right now. Also, if you have any ideas for the blog, please let me know.

DISASTER TRAINING COORDINATOR - ALAN STAFFORD

Greetings to all the volunteers. The Training Department is busy with our 2nd quarter classes. I'd like to thank all of our volunteer instructors for their tireless dedication. We currently have 16 Disaster Instructors in our chapter! When you add the Health & Safety Instructors, we're in a very enviable position. Mark your calendar for Thursday, June 17th at 6:00 p.m. We had a wonderful Fire Safety Workshop at the South Trail Fire District Fire Station on Crystal Drive. Be sure to call the Chapter to register for classes as interested.

AMERICAN RED CROSS LEE COUNTY CHAPTER DISASTER TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE

***** MAY 2010 -- JUNE 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 / Alan Stafford, Instructors	Thursday, May 20	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Alie Randlett / Michelle Percello, Instructors	Monday, June 7	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Luis Martinez / Michelle Percello, Instructors	Wednesday, June 30	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This basic course introduces 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 prerequisite for many Disaster Training Classes.

MASS CARE OVERVIEW:

Joe Pescatrice / Alie Randlett, Instructors	Tuesday, May 25	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
	Wednesday, June 16	6:00 – 9:00 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:

Alie Randlett, Instructor	Monday, May 10	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
	Thursday, May 27	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
	Monday, June 14	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.

FUNDAMENTALS OF DISASTER ASSESSMENT:

John Doramus / Carlene Sharples, Instructors	Thursday, June 10	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
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This class introduces Red Cross volunteers to the critical role of Disaster Assessment by exploring related preparedness tasks, learning 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:

Bob Sansone, Instructor	Wednesday, May 19	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
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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 a lunch

Robin Moore / Jan George, Instructors

Saturday, May 8

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, June 12

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 & SHELTER SIMULATION:

Joe Pescatrice, Instructor Attendees should bring a lunch.

Saturday, June 5

8:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Each workshop is LIMITED to 12 attendees!

Saturday, June 5

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

This workshop enables Active ERV Drivers the opportunity to receive updated information from National on changes to Mass Care and ERV protocols. Attendees will have the opportunity to hone their skills by re-familiarizing themselves by practicing hand signals and backing the ERV, along with changes in inventory, proper tie-down of cambros and much more. All Active Drivers who have NOT driven an ERV within the past 6 months is encouraged to attend.

DEPLOYMENT - WHAT TO EXPECT? - An Overview:

Carlene Sharples / Ann Boehm / Jan George, Instructors

Wednesday, May 12

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The purpose of this training is to explain the Deployment Process from start to finish, including being locally deployed. Attendees will learn why and how volunteers are selected for a Disaster Relief (DR) assignment; what you take with you on a DR assignment; what a Disaster Staff Card is and how it works, along with In-processing and Out-processing procedures.

BULK DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS:

Joe Pescatrice, Instructor

Saturday, June 26

9:00 – 12:00 p.m.

The purpose of this training is to prepare Red Cross volunteers for the roles, responsibilities and tasks involved in setting up, operating and supporting a Bulk Distribution operation in the chapter and on a disaster relief operation.

FIRE SAFETY WORKSHOP:

Proper use of fire extinguishers & identifying class A, B and C fires

Christie Knudsen, Public Education Officer / Public Information Officer, Instructor

This course will be held at the South Trail Fire District Fire Station

212 Crystal Drive, Fort Myers, Florida

Each class is LIMITED to 20 attendees!

Thursday, June 17

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of this training is to prepare Red Cross employees and volunteers to recognize the differences in Class A, B & C fires as well as learning the proper way to use a fire extinguisher on each class of fire. This is an important class for all Red Cross Volunteers, especially those on D.A.T. Teams.