



**American
Red Cross**

Connections

SERVING AMELIA, CHESTERFIELD, GOOCHLAND, HANOVER, HENRICO, NEW KENT, POWHATAN AND RICHMOND

■ CEO'S CORNER

American Red Cross to Close Its Doors

Dear Friends:

Can you imagine this headline actually being true?

Someone else would need to help disaster victims get back on their feet. This includes local people who lose their home to fire. They require immediate help and emotional support. It cannot wait until morning. They often need a place to sleep, food to eat, clothes to wear and medications. The help will also include hurricane, flood and tornado victims.

Also, the Red Cross has an unfunded mandate by Congress to provide emergency communication services for members of the military and their families. If the Red Cross did not exist, I guess the government would have to step up and create an appropriate communication system. Meanwhile, that expectant mother who is going into labor can hopefully reach her husband who is in Iraq by cell phone.

Someone else would have to teach the 35,000 local people we currently instruct how to save lives each year. Americans have depended on the Red Cross for more than a century to lead the way in first aid, swimming and CPR instruction. If we went out of business, people would have to learn on their own. And finally the free transportation service we provide annually to people in need to



life saving medical procedures such as kidney dialysis, I guess they would have to find some other reliable, free and compassionate mode of transportation.

Okay, let's face it. Our community really does need us. I cannot imagine life without the Red Cross at a local, regional or national level. Your Red Cross is relevant every day, not just during the times of disaster. Please spread that message.

The need for our programs and services is ever increasing. And thanks to you, we are making differences in the lives of people every day. Our staff, both paid and volunteer, translate your generous support into action each day by using your financial support wisely and responsibly.

No one else can do what we do. We'll continue to be in the background helping disaster victims return to normalcy, teaching people how to save lives, and keeping our brave men and women in the armed forces in touch with their loved ones. We'll keep those life-saving transportation rides going, and offer our dedicated support to you and everyone you know in our community.

Together we will remain ever vigilant and good stewards of the resources required to do our work...our doors always open to those in need.

Warmest regards,
Reggie E. Gordon, CEO
Greater Richmond Chapter

LOCAL RED CROSS TRAINED MAN SAVES LIFE OF CHOKING TWO-YEAR-OLD CHILD

If Thomas Hogge had not been Red Cross trained the results could have been disastrous.

Thank you Defense General Supply Center For Helping Save This Child's Life!

There is a special relationship between the American Red Cross and the United States Military. In addition to providing emergency communications to soldiers in armed conflict, they also share the belief in preparing individuals with the knowledge of life saving techniques and first aid. For Thomas Hogge, employee at the Defense Supply Center Richmond [DSCR], that knowledge saved the life of a child.

It was during breakfast one October morning at the DSCR's day care center when he noticed two-year-old Corbin Johnson. "At first he started coughing and looked like he was okay," Thomas said, "then his coughing stopped and I knew there was trouble." Recognizing all the signs of a choking victim, Thomas reacted just like his Red Cross trained instructor had shown him and after several attempts was able to dislodge the food.

If Thomas Hogge had not been Red Cross trained, the results could have been disastrous. Naturally, parents Cassandra and Kenneth were not only relieved and grateful, but also appreciative that the DSCR staff was so well prepared. Cassandra adds, "As a parent, it just makes sense to take advantage of this kind of training, and not just rely on staff to always be there."

As a responsible corporate citizen, DSCR offers monthly courses throughout their 600 acre installation. While the DSCR and the American Red Cross partner with the purpose of saving lives Thomas Hogge and Corbin are living examples of the success this partnership brings.

■ IN ACTION



Through proper training, Thomas Hogge was able to save the life of toddler, Corbin Jones.

For more information on these and other life saving courses, contact the Chapter at 780-2250.

What Can Your Money Do?

At the Greater Richmond Chapter, no matter what the size of your contribution, you know it ensures that help will be there when the community needs it. Here are some examples of what your contribution can do:

\$20 can:

- ✓ provide five Red Cross volunteers with personal kits that include disposable gloves and a breathing barrier for use during CPR
- ✓ give five schools or classrooms the tools they need to establish or enhance a Red Cross Club and engage students in their communities
- ✓ give five students the tools they need to develop leadership skills through the Red Cross Youth Leadership Council

\$25 can:

- ✓ buy a car wash for a Red Cross vehicle used to transport clients to life-sustaining medical appointments
- ✓ provide first aid and CPR training to a youth volunteer

\$50 can:

- ✓ provide a scholarship for Red Cross Babysitter's Training
- ✓ provide a disaster client with infant formula and baby supplies for one week
- ✓ buy a tank of gas for a Red Cross minivan which will transport about six clients to medical appointments during any given weekday
- ✓ provide a winter coat and gloves to someone who has lost everything in a fire
- ✓ provide a scholarship for first aid/CPR/AED training in English or Spanish

\$150 can:

- ✓ provide lodging for three nights for a family displaced by fire or other emergency
- ✓ purchase replacement clothing and shoes for someone who has lost everything in a fire
- ✓ buy a tank of gas for the Emergency Response Vehicle that provides mobile feeding or distributes supplies in the wake of large-scale disasters

\$350 can:

- ✓ provide a scholarship for a Red Cross first aid/CPR instructor certification
- ✓ purchase a two-way, hand-held radio that our drivers can use while they are on the road serving clients

\$600 can:

- ✓ allow us to reach 5,000 residents with information on how to be prepared for disaster
- ✓ provide five tanks full of gas for our Red Cross bus, which transports as many as 10 stroke survivors at once to their recurring physical rehabilitation appointments
- ✓ provide a scholarship to get Red Cross lifeguard certification for three people

\$750 can:

- ✓ provide a scholarship for the Red Cross Nurse Aid Training Program

\$3,000 can:

- ✓ give us a year's worth of resources to help disaster clients replace medicine that they can't do without

\$12,000 can:

- ✓ provide the match money that we need to purchase wheelchair-equipped minivans for our medical transportation program

\$80,000

- ✓ give us a year's worth of resources to provide disaster clients with emergency food, clothing and shoes

SPOTLIGHT

"I would not be able to walk without the Red Cross."

For most people, driving a car is taken for granted. Travelling to the grocery store or bank is a quick and convenient affair. Even if a car is not around, a simple walk to a bus stop will suffice. But, how about trying to get a ride so you could learn how to walk again?

For Travis Crutchfield, this was a serious question. In November of 2007, Travis was walking across a street when he was hit by a car. The impact sent him flying into the path of another oncoming vehicle. Eight days later, he woke up in the hospital. "My lower left leg was broken in 4 or 5 places, my neck was sprained, and I had severe head trauma," he



Travis Crutchfield was critically injured when he was struck by two cars as he crossed the street. Red Cross volunteer Vince Howley of Goochland has transported Travis to medical appointments so that he can learn to walk again.



remembers, "I don't remember much of the accident, but I remember waking up in the hospital wondering what was going on."

After a significant stay in the hospital, Travis moved in with his family since someone needed to care for him. His mother, who had taken quite a lot of time off soon had to return to work so she contacted the American Red Cross and arranged for Travis' transportation to and from physical therapy.

Individuals without the means to get there themselves, depend upon the Red Cross to get them to life-changing medical treatments. Travis agrees, "I wouldn't be able to walk right now without the Red Cross, I can tell you that for sure."

Three times a week for over a year, Travis was met with friendly and dependable service. The transportation program is just one more way that the Red Cross meets the needs of the community and is supported by gifts from donors. Notes Travis, "The Red Cross is the only organization I've seen that gives without asking anything in return. I know a lot of other organizations say that they do, but the Red Cross actually does it."

For more information on this program, please contact Anne Marie Vastano at (804) 780-2250.

Sewing Red Cross Seeds Around the Globe

Web of Hope volunteers make clothing for people worldwide

Can a needle and thread sew the world together? Maybe not, but it can keep people warm and brighten spirits. Just ask any volunteer in the Web of Hope who use love and limber fingers to help those in need, one piece of clothing at a time.

The Web of Hope, a volunteer arm of the American Red Cross, knits, crochets and sews for people in need locally, nationally and worldwide. This past year the volunteers made 8,532 items including sweaters, hats, blankets and baby items to help keep those in need warm. The Greater Richmond Chapter is the only Red Cross chapter in the country that has this program.

"The volunteers make gorgeous gifts, just like they were making them for their own grandchildren," said Linda Southworth, Web of Hope Coordinator. Volunteers give their time and work hard making gifts for those in need – and yet never meet those who receive their gifts.

Pat Tune, Web volunteer for over 13 years says, "It's very rewarding to see pictures of people from different parts of the world being warmed by the things I made." Pat also says volunteering is a great opportunity for groups within retirement homes that can't always go out to volunteer, but can still do something and feel like they are helping make a difference.

Since its inception in 1993, Web of Hope volunteers have made 91,856 gifts to those in need. "We are always looking for volunteers, and what we need most right now is yarn," says Southworth. *For more information about the Web of Hope or to volunteer or make a donation, contact Linda Southworth at 804-779-3453.*



Children in China receive hand-made blankets, hats and sweaters.

Working Together in the Face of Disaster.

“I never thought of the Red Cross as the cavalry, but that’s exactly what they are like.”
— Henrico resident Larry Wade who lost his home to fire.



Larry Wade's family was one of twenty that lost their home in a recent apartment complex fire. He shared with our Red Cross volunteers how their help allowed his family to remain together.

Several times a day, every day, somewhere across America, the Red Cross helps families just like the Wades, who lost their homes to fires.

Everyone knows the American Red Cross responds to disasters. On TV, the symbol of the Red Cross is usually seen in the background indicating volunteers reaching out to others in their most dire time of need. But what is never seen is the preparation it takes for those volunteers to act in times of crisis so they can focus on the emergency at hand. No matter the extreme conditions that surround them, these highly trained and dedicated individuals must be responsive and provide immediate help in the face of a crisis.

These selfless heroes are able to do partially because of their Red Cross training. But the real part of being a volunteer comes from the heart. No instruction, can teach volunteers how to treat other humans in these unfortunate situations. It is the personal support which matters most and a constant reminder of why the Red Cross even exists and also why it will always be needed.

To make sure they are providing services in a manner that is best for those in need, sometimes Disaster Action Team (DAT) members invite people who called upon the Red Cross for help to discuss the tragic event that brought them together. The Red Cross wants to learn from clients about their experiences with the organization; everything that went right and even those areas where volunteers could improve their delivery of service.

Larry Wade recently met with the DAT members. Mr. Wade lost his home due to an apartment building fire affecting his and 20 other apartments. “I never thought of the Red Cross as the cavalry, but that’s exactly what they are like,” he said. In describing his ordeal, Mr. Wade shared with the volunteers about their positive influence in a time of uncertainty. “You feel so vulnerable. It’s like your life is just drifting around you.”

Because of the damage to his apartment, the Red Cross placed Mr. Wade’s family in a hotel for 7 days and also provided food, clothing and other emergency needs. When they did return home, with the help of the American Red Cross, they have been able to slowly pull their lives back together.

“All of you,” he said pointing around the room, “really had an effect on us. We’re now very conscious of others less fortunate than ourselves and try to make a little bit of difference in someone’s lives they way you did for us.”

■ FLOOD SAFETY

Know the Difference

Flood/Flash Flood Watch

Flooding or flash flooding is possible in your area.

Flood/Flash Flood Warning

Flooding or flash flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters in terms of human hardship and economic loss. Most communities in the United States can experience some kind of flooding. Flash floods occur within six hours of a rain event, after a dam or levee failure, or when snow and ice melt at a rapid pace. Flash floods can catch people unprepared, with little or no warning that these deadly, sudden floods are coming.



American Red Cross

Know What to Expect

- Know your area's flood risk—if unsure, call your local **Red Cross chapter**, emergency management office, or planning and zoning department.
- If it has been raining hard for several hours, or steadily raining for several days, be alert to the possibility of a flood.
- Listen to local radio or TV stations for flood information.

Prepare a Family Disaster Plan

- Check to see if you have insurance that covers flooding. If not, find out how to get flood insurance.
- Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Containing:

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person
- Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.
- Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on.)
- Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places . . . a friend's home in another town, a motel, or a shelter.



American Red Cross

When a Flood WATCH Is Issued:

- Move your furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home.
- Fill your car's gas tank, in case an evacuation notice is issued.

When a Flood WARNING Is Issued:

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for information and advice. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

When a Flash Flood WATCH Is Issued . . .

- Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

When a Flash Flood WARNING Is Issued:

- Or if you think it has already started, evacuate immediately. You may have only seconds to escape. Act quickly!
- Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades . . . they are there for your safety.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

Greater Richmond Chapter

fastfacts

Since the beginning of the year, the Greater Richmond Chapter of the American Red Cross has:

- Responded to 129 local emergencies, with most being house fires, assisting 177 families or 609 individuals.
- Provided 5,370 free one way-way trips to life-sustaining medical appointments.
- Trained over 14,552 individuals in First Aid, CPR, AED and other life saving skills.
- Served the Greater Richmond community 24/7 through approximately 600 volunteers and 33 paid staff.
- Recruited 9 Portuguese volunteers for Language Bank.
- Recruited 500 students in 24 Red Cross school clubs.
- Assisted in 334 military emergency cases and assisted with 276 calls for information and referrals.
- Received 1140 calls and/or walk-in information and referral requests from military members and their family.
- Distributed 48,985 disaster preparedness brochures to 25,375 individuals.
- Contributed 757 hours volunteering at McGuire Veterans' Hospital.

WARM WISHES from our friends...



To:
Disaster Services
American Red Cross

Thank you for helping me and my two sons when our apartment kitchen fire forced us to move out.

Thank you for thinking of everything when we can't.



To whom it may concern—

We take this opportunity to thank you for the assistance given to us after a fire in our home. We thank God for allowing us to get out safely. Our home should be ready in late November or December. We are taking one day at a time. May God continue to bless the organization & staff as you make a difference in the lives of so many.

To: American Red Cross

Thank you all and God bless all of you for being there for my son. I can't thank the Red Cross enough.

God bless the Disaster Action Team.



Touching the Future, A Guide to Estate Planning and Charitable Giving

To receive your free copy, please call Jenny Johnson, Gift Planning Officer, at 866-818-4918.

Leave a Legacy. Please consider including the Greater Richmond Chapter in your estate plan. Call Jenny Johnson, Gift Planning Officer, at 866-818-4918.

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