



Thank You for Your Support

The mission of the American Red Cross is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. At this time of Thanksgiving, the Red Cross would like to thank everyone who supports our organization and allows us – through you - to help people in need.

The Red Cross could not do its work without Red Cross volunteers and donors. When an emergency occurs, volunteers leave their homes and work around the clock to lend a hand. Generous individual and corporate financial donors enable the Red Cross to provide shelter, food and comfort. And faithful blood donors give the precious gift of lifesaving blood.

Thank you for your profound commitment to the American Red Cross and those we serve. Each year, your support allows the Red Cross to:

Fall into Service – Become a Red Cross Volunteer

Did you know that volunteers make up 90 percent of the American Red Cross workforce?

That’s right. As many as 275,000 volunteers generously give their valuable time to support the Red Cross mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering in the face of emergencies.

There are many ways Red Cross volunteers help people in need. Some support the Services to the Armed Forces (SAF) community. Others install free smoke alarms in at-risk communities. There are teams that support such local and regional efforts as fundraising and clerical support. Others look to the global picture, supporting International



Bettye Brewer (center) and her family survived a fire in their Alabama home in December 2022, thanks to smoke alarms that Red Cross volunteers Robert Jay Wortley (left) and Mike Turner (right) had installed just two months earlier. Here, two months after the fire, Brewer, Wortley and Turner are volunteering together at a Sound the Alarm event to install free smoke alarms and share fire safety information with families in Selma, Alabama. “Hopefully, I can reach out to those that don't have smoke alarms to encourage them to get those smoke alarms,” Brewer said. Photo by Brad Zerivitz/American Red Cross

Molly Dalton

- Respond to more than **60,000** disasters in the U.S.
- Provide more than **540,000** services to members of the military, veterans and their families through our Hero Care Network.
- Train more than **4.6 million** people in first aid, water safety and other lifesaving skills.
- Help more than **143 million** people around the world through American Red Cross disease prevention activities and disaster services.
- Distribute more than **6.3 million** blood products for transfusion to meet the needs of patients at about **2,500** hospitals and other facilities across the country.

Thank you for your help providing that support. We hope that you have a joyous, safe and peaceful holiday season.

Molly Dalton

Humanitarian Law initiatives or the Measles and Rubella Initiative. [Learn more here.](#)

DISASTER CYCLE SERVICES – There is a critical need today for volunteers who are interested in helping disaster victims. The Red Cross is responding to almost twice as many large disasters as we did a decade ago. In fact, during the last few years, there was a new, major disaster response every 10 days. There is a critical need for more volunteers so we can support people who depend on the Red Cross for help.

Among the most needed disaster-related volunteer roles are those who can serve on our Disaster

Health Services and Disaster Mental Health Services teams.

Disaster Health Services Team:

[Featured in this video are stories from some health services volunteers.](#)

During large disasters, you can use your professional skills as a licensed healthcare provider to deliver hands-on care and education to shelter residents. Free online training will be provided. If the need arises, volunteers are asked to commit to multiple local shifts of 4-12 hours each. For those able to travel outside of their local area, a commitment of at least 10-14 consecutive days, working 8- or 12-hour shifts is required. Qualified licenses include RN, LPN, LVN, EMT, Paramedic, MD, DO, PA, NP, APRN. Only RNs have full scope of practice. Expenses for travel, lodging and meals are covered through the generosity of donors.

Disaster Mental Health Services Team:

The American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health program is a supportive care model provided in a community setting to address the psychosocial and emotional needs of individuals and families impacted by disaster. The program is unique in that it allows mental health professionals to use their skills in assessment, care, teaching, coaching and coordinating recovery to promote and achieve an optimal level of mental health for a client after disaster. Disaster Mental Health workers promote client independence and resiliency. Minimum qualifications include a master's degree in a mental health profession; and a current, unencumbered license from, or registered with any U.S. state or

Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority Partners with Red Cross in Support of Volunteer Service

The Red Cross has a partnership with Chi Eta Phi, an ethnically diverse professional organization for registered nurses and nursing students. Within the Red Cross this partnership is managed at the national level by Disaster Cycle Services, although several other lines of business and Volunteer Services are also working with Chi Eta Phi.

Chi Eta Phi held a "Red Cross Day" on July 13, 2023, at their national conference in Charlotte, NC which had 587 participants. Chi Eta Phi hosted a blood drive that had a goal of 30 collections and achieved 60. The 5 Red Cross workshops were all

territory as a social worker, psychologist, professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, psychiatric nurse or psychiatrist.

Other critical volunteer roles needing to be filled include:

- **Disaster Action Team:** As a [Disaster Action Team](#) volunteer, you can help comfort and support people in your community by meeting any immediate needs such as food, shelter, clothing or supplies and connecting them to long-term recovery services.
- **Recovery Care Caseworker:** The Client Care Program meets the disaster-caused needs of individuals and families with casework and recovery planning by matching Red Cross resources and assistance to these needs.
- **Shelter Service Associate:** During large disasters, you can support the day-to-day activities within a shelter which may include working in reception, registration, feeding, dormitory, information or other areas within a shelter.
- **Blood Donor Ambassador:** [Volunteer Blood Donor Ambassadors](#) ensure that blood donors have a pleasant and fulfilling experience from the moment they arrive at a blood drive to the moment they leave by greeting donors, answering questions or thanking them for their donation.
- **Blood Transportation Specialist:** Volunteer Transportation Specialists deliver life-saving blood products from Red Cross distribution facilities to hospitals, using a Red Cross-owned vehicle. [Hear more from two of our volunteers in this video.](#)

This autumn, we invite you to *Fall into Service* by volunteering with the American Red Cross. Visit redcross.org/volunteertoday to sign up for opportunities with your [local chapter](#).

successful and well attended. Earl Brown, Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services Consultant for Partner Relations, recognized Red Cross presenters Mary Casey-Lockyer, Jamar Brewton, Dr. Laverne Williams, Hope Martin and her team (Vesha and Allen) and Adrian Mines. Brown reported that plenary presentations by Dr. Yvette Miller and Dr. Linda MacIntyre were well received by members of Chi Eta Phi. Conference attendees received nursing contact hours. Chi Eta Phi presented the Red Cross with a donation of \$2,000.

Chi Eta Phi members across the country have been

invited to volunteer with the Red Cross. As nurses and nursing students, Chi Eta Phi members are well suited for the Disaster Health Services activity and have expertise in many areas that can add value as volunteers in other lines of service as well. Red

Cross Chief Nurse, Linda MacIntyre said, “I am grateful to Chi Eta Phi for their support in serving communities through this collaboration. The goals of the two organizations intersect and together we can better meet the needs of communities.”

Three U.S. Nurses Receive Highest Red Cross International Nursing Medal

Molly Dalton

Three nurses from the United States are among this year’s recipients of the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest Red Cross international distinction a nurse can receive. Recognized recently by the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C., the trio are among the [37 recipients from 22 countries](#) who were honored by the Red Cross.

Monitoring courses designed for nurses, physicians and medical technicians. Her efforts in training the staff, coupled with the implementation of evidence-based practices, have significantly contributed to successfully averting complications and sentinel events during complex deliveries.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) bestows the prestigious award bi-annually to exceptionally qualified nurses and voluntary nursing aides around the world who have distinguished themselves in time of peace or war by:

Additionally, as an expert Sexual Assault Medical Forensics Examiner (SAMFE), she had the distinction of being the Yokota Air Base’s program manager and was selected by the Air Force Medical Service to be the SAMFE trainer for all Military Treatment Facilities in the Pacific region. As a SAMFE, she has been involved in numerous sexual assault cases requiring collection of evidence and providing expert witness for military judge advocates that either yielded in rightful convictions or appropriate acquittals.

- Exceptional courage and devotion to the wounded, sick or disabled or to civilian victims of a conflict or disaster
- Exemplary services or a creative and pioneering spirit in the areas of public health or nursing education

Here are the three honorees nominated by the American Red Cross:

Major Brandi Branch, MSN, RNC-OB, LNC, CD (DONA), a native of Orlando, Florida, is a



Major Brandi Branch

member of the United States Air Force who was nominated while a captain and serving as flight commander at the OB/GYN Clinic on Yokota Air Base in Japan. Branch worked closely with the Red Crescent in Afghanistan to support identifying the next of kin for patients who lost their lives in Tarin Kowt. Branch currently serves in Germany.

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She served as the Flight Commander (Officer in Charge) of the Yokota AFB outpatient Obstetrics and Gynecology clinic. She teaches Emergencies in Clinical Obstetrics courses and Fetal Heart

Branch also led the Tactical Combat Casualty Care training program to prepare medics (both with clinical and non-clinical experience) to respond to casualties with elevated first-aid skills and core trauma skills. She also taught MEDIC-X, designed to teach non-clinical staff basic nursing skills such as vital signs, intake and output, specimen collection etc. The goal is to use MEDIC-X trained members to augment limited nursing staff to care for mass casualties in an inpatient setting.

Patricia Chappell, Col (Ret) USAF, NC, BSN, MA, MS a native of Buffalo, New York and resident of Colorado Springs, Colorado, spent 30-plus years in various capacities in health care administration within the U.S. Air Force Medical Service, Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense.



Colonel (Ret) Patricia Chappell

A 2022 recipient of the Ann Magnussen Award, the highest honor of nursing achievement in

the American Red Cross, Chappell began volunteering for the Red Cross in 2004 as a Chapter Board member, Government Operations team member, Administrative and Facilities Lead, and Disaster Health Services Lead.

Since 2005, Chappell has served on 37 Red Cross Disaster Relief Operations (DROs). Across all, she worked tirelessly to build the capacity of Disaster Health Services locally, regionally and nationally and was the catalyst for developing the Disaster Health Services team in the Colorado & Wyoming Region.

2012 brought wildfires followed by devastating floods to Colorado. Chappell served as Job Director and assisted up to 80,000 people affected by what was then the largest wildfire in Colorado history. She became a Colorado Office of Emergency Management Mass Care Council Chair and expanded disaster feeding capacities from five major partners to more than fourteen. The feeding plan formed the new disaster feeding standard for five additional states.

She served during the July 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire, when she herself was ordered to evacuate her home. Chappell's home survived the wildfires, and as a result of her personal brush with disaster, she has redoubled her focus on getting communities ready for disasters - not only in the Rockies, but across the U.S. Chappell supported some of the most difficult disaster responses like the October 2017 Las Vegas response and the November 2022 Colorado Springs response. Her consistent willingness to give of herself during some of the most profoundly difficult and emotional responses clearly demonstrates Chappell's spirit of kindness and mercy.

Captain Carlos Mendoza, BSN, RN, an Idaho native, is currently stationed at Scott AFB, IL as a Patient Movement Clinical Coordinator. He recently transferred there from the 375th

Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron where he served as a Flight Nurse and deployed several times, including to Kabul, Afghanistan, during Operation Allies Refuge and the Afghan drawdown.



Captain Carlos Mendoza

In Afghanistan, [Mendoza](#) helped erect the initial triage station where he provided care to people with various medical conditions. Mendoza and others from his

squadron provided basic care with limited supplies for over 15 hours until all the refugees were evacuated to an off-base staging facility. Two days later he was forward deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan to coordinate medical evacuations for the refugees and the drawdown ending U.S. military operations in Afghanistan.

During his two weeks in Kabul, he was responsible for the coordination of 12 medical evacuation missions which included critically wounded civilians and service members. Under the threat of additional attacks, he exposed himself countless times while bringing equipment, escorting medical flight teams, and transporting patients throughout the night and early morning hours during the evacuation process. Thirty-eight critically wounded service members and civilians, including twelve critical patients on life-sustaining devices, were evacuated on three consecutive missions within fifteen hours.

Upon his redeployment, Mendoza and fellow medical crew members worked tirelessly redesigning medical kits to be able to meet the demands of a mass casualty incident similar to what they faced when they encountered over 800 refugees at Al Udeid AB, Qatar. Today these kits are being rigorously tested by U. S. Air Force Aeromedical Evacuation teams with plans to implement globally once testing is finalized.

Seasons in a Leadership Journey: One Nurse's Story

I grew up in Washington, D.C. where the annual climate spanned four seasons. I enjoyed aspects of each season. As I reflect on my career over the years, I envision my nursing career in seasons.

Donna Mazyck, MS, RN, LCPC, NCSN, CAE, FNASN

The spring of my career found me learning the science and art of the nursing profession. During this season in my junior year of nursing school, I was interviewed for a university brochure. In that

interview, I shared that my endgame for obtaining a nursing degree was to return to my community to teach individuals and groups how to navigate stressors that impact their health and to incorporate healthy practices in their lives. I developed a practice setting focus that included child and adolescent health, as well as chronic disease prevention and management. The seed of that focus was what I gleaned from my mother's story. She experienced social factors that mitigated optimal health beginning in her young life and continuing into adulthood – her mother died when she was 6 years old and her father died when she was 14 years old.



Donna Mazyck at WAMU studio

As a senior in my undergraduate public health nursing course, I discovered an affinity for engaging with communities. In the summer of my career, I began working as a home care nurse and a public health nurse in New York City communities. The beginnings of leadership development began as I observed Lyn Reynolds, one of my supervisors, model effective and inspirational leadership. I observed Lyn articulating clear values in the workplace and living according to those values. Her authentic presence and value-driven actions influenced me to discover my values. I learned that I valued equity and evidence-based care for clients. Another set of values I believed in centered on providing respectful, collaborative and strengths-based meetings with individuals and within communities. I realized that my leadership grew with intention and focus. Upon moving to Maryland, I continued to work in communities as a home care and hospice nurse, along with public health nursing.

After 13 years of this work, I found a new community in which to work – high schools. When I began school nursing, I learned a new approach to delivering health care and health education to a different community. I found mentors in nursing, counseling and psychology on the high school student services teams. Working in an interprofessional way helped to surround individual students or groups of students with the support they needed to attain their education. I recall a student who had unmet health needs due to their single

parent's loss of health care insurance following a job loss. The student's health needs resulted in chronic absenteeism. The student services team members developed a plan to help the student get what was needed to resume school attendance. As the school nurse, I connected the parent to health care coverage and a health care home. Once the student had insurance and began health care visits, a plan of care for school and home enabled the student to manage the health care needs. Leading through collaboration became another value I adopted. Increasingly, I used my voice to advocate for and with clients.

In the autumn of my career, I began working at the state education department in order to advance policies for school health that would support student health and learning. Examples of those policies included emergency preparedness in schools, medication administration guidelines, public health surveillance, e.g., chronic absenteeism, influenza-like illness, and population-based screening and referrals for vision and hearing. The focus on policy opened opportunities to provide education to policymakers in state and local agencies and in the state legislature. Years of work in this season honed leadership through persuasive and data-driven writing and providing presentations to make the case for advancing policies. Leading through collaboration and fostering a common purpose deepened during these years.

The seasons changed once again. In the winter of my career, I accepted a role at the helm of the National Association of School Nurses. In the position of executive director, I continued to grow in leadership as I connected with national leaders, agencies and organizations. The voice of advocacy to promote healthy schools and healthy students amplified in



Donna Mazyck at an NASN conference

this season. One of the enduring collaborations began in 2016 when I met Red Cross Chief Nurse Linda MacIntyre. We connected on national work on emergency preparedness for children and youth. My Red Cross volunteer work began upon invitation to join the National Nursing Committee (NNC) as a member of the Communications and Partnerships subcommittee. After several years of being on the committee, Dr. MacIntyre appointed me as chair of the NNC, which I continue to do. The NNC advises, advocates for, and acts to:

- Engage nurses and other health professionals with the Red Cross enterprise-wide
- Support volunteerism across the lifespan
- Promote health and resilience within our communities.

NNC members support the National Nursing Committee in achieving the Chief Nurse Initiatives for Nursing and Health to further the Red Cross mission. The NNC is comprised of Red Cross national nurse and non-nurse leaders from all business lines (Biomedical Services, Disaster Cycle

Services, International Services, Service to the Armed Forces, and Training Services), and external leaders in health and mental health-related organizations.

This year, I stepped away from a full-time career position. I am delighted to offer my leadership expertise to the Red Cross and a few other nonprofit organizations. This reflection of the seasons of my leadership journey reminds me that learning continues and leadership grows.



Fall trees on path, photo by Donna Mazyck

[Ed. comment: Also, thankfully, spring comes back around again after winter, and the Red Cross is lucky and thankful for the benefit of Donna Mazyck's seasoned support!]

Marianne Hurley, A Red Cross Nurse Leading and Engaging Volunteers – Getting to ‘Yes’ Through Service

Pat Chappell, Col (Ret) USAF, NC, BSN, MA, MS

As a preamble, I would like to remind you of our shared Red Cross tenets and values:

The Red Cross Nurse Creed:

“I believe in the ideals of democracy and the concept of universal brotherhood. I acknowledge no barriers of country, race, class, or creed.

I believe that service to others is the obligation of mankind, that every right I claim imposes a responsibility and every possession implies a duty.

I believe it is my privilege and my duty to teach others some of the knowledge and skill that I possess so that they too may know the satisfaction of competence in dealing with illness and pain.

To bring comfort to those who are in trouble, to alleviate suffering, and to conserve life is my mission.

Wherever disaster calls there I shall go. I ask not for whom, but only where I am needed.

Under the banner of the Red Cross, symbolic of the finest instincts of man, I find fulfillment in helping to animate the spirit of kindness and mercy that embraces the world.” (Lona Trott, RN, 1953)

The 5 core values or “5 Cs”: Compassionate, Creative, Collaborative, Credible and Committed.

Marianne Hurley, BSN, RN certainly ‘walks the talk’ of the Red Cross Nurse Creed and the 5 Cs in her role, and has consistently done so during her past 19+ years of service as a Disaster Health Services (DHS) member. She is a true mentor, a strong leader and a nurse who upholds the values and principles of the Red Cross in meeting its mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the



Marianne Hurley

power of volunteers. Hurley is especially skilled in alleviating human suffering and in mobilizing and mentoring volunteers to meet the mission.

Over the years, Marianne Hurley has filled multiple positions and roles in support of the Texas Gulf Coast Region (TGCR), including: Disaster Services Harris County Territory responder; Workforce Engagement member; TGCR DHS

Regional Lead; DHS Coordinator; DAT Trainee – Harris County Territory Night Team; Staff Health reviewer; Disaster Cycle Services (DCS) Virtual Call member and DCS Basic Instructor, Fundraising and Administrative support to International Services to name a few. Additionally, she is a lead for the Individual Care Condolence Team (ICCT), at which she also excels. When there were no Disaster Mental Health nor Disaster Spiritual Care leads for Harris County, she expertly mentored new people filling those roles as well.

The Texas Gulf Coast Region describes her as an “overachieving rock star!” Hurley is known for her extraordinary work in the region as the DHS Regional Lead and consistently goes beyond and above in that role.

She manages an incredible team of nurses that follow up on all cases in the region that are flagged as needing DHS. Hurley oversees approximately 100+ DHS volunteers in the TGCR Region. She also recruits new volunteer nurses and coordinates training opportunities for them. She and her team are also responsible for reviewing and following up on every case in the region that has fatalities or injured clients. She works directly with fire marshals, funeral homes, hospitals, doctors, nurses and pharmacies to fulfill every client's unmet DHS needs. Hurley works well with the entire TGCR leadership team. She contacts the Disaster Mental Health and Spiritual care leads when she feels a client would benefit from extra support in these areas, and also coordinates with the regional casework lead to request additional follow-up when a client has any unmet need.

Marianne Hurley has served on 28 Disaster Relief Operations (DROs). In fiscal year 2020 alone, she responded to 5 DROs while also supporting her children and grandbabies. Hurley responds to every DRO within the TGCR Region. She has responded to 3 DRs so far in 2023. She always says ‘yes’ to requests to help.

The Red Cross has recognized Hurley’s leadership, dedication and service on numerous occasions. The TGCR has an Exceptional Nursing Award which Hurley has received several times in the past. Though she is still frequently nominated, she repeatedly has insisted that her nomination be

removed to allow other members of her team to be honored. She is in constant contact with them as a mentor and resource. She also was a recipient of the TCGR Leadership Award. Additionally, Hurley was recognized by International Services for her exceptional support of the 2020 InterAmerican Conference of the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies. To quote the Global Events Manager’s comments to Hurley: “Your patience, top notch nursing skills, excellent bedside manner, ability to work seemingly endless hours with varying levels of interlocutors (from VIP to vendors to volunteers to staff helping out) and organizational skills all came together to create a safe, healthy and perfectly volunteer-supported InterAmerican Conference.” The SWaRM Division VP

recognized Hurley for her phenomenal ICCT leadership during the 2021 Texas Freeze which she maintained throughout the 3-month response. During that role, her critical thinking skills were at work in the service of clients and the organization, as she identified and shared many recommendations for ICCT process improvements, several of which were adopted at the national level.



Hurley received an Excellence in Nursing Award in 2021.

Hurley’s critical thinking has continued to help spur improvement in other areas, such as suggestions related to inputting data into the electronic Mortality form. Hurley’s attention to people and quality has also helped improve virtual responses: Hurley noted that many clients had a perceived mistrust of ICCT caseworkers who contacted them virtually, apparently doubting that they were actually Red Cross representatives. Due to her creativity and always wanting to get to “yes”, Hurley implemented additional procedures to build client confidence, such as FaceTime calls, wearing Red Cross attire and calling from a Red Cross identifiable phone. She also proposed providing ICCT information for Public Affairs briefings and educating Medical Examiners and Justices of the

Peace throughout the state on Red Cross's approach to fatality management, thereby helping to build trust with clients and partners.

Another area Hurley identified for improvement was a focused effort to provide education to key stakeholders in the state of Texas during non-operational ("blue sky") periods, so key government and fatality stakeholders would learn about the release of required information that allows the Red Cross to provide assistance. This idea was grounded in the observation that many stakeholders did not recognize/accept the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) letter provided by Red Cross authorizing release of requested client related information. The above suggestions were also submitted as an official After-Action Report for national-level process improvement consideration, and many were implemented.

Marianne Hurley epitomizes the 5 Cs and the Red



Hurley, front and center, with the DRO 636-15 DHS team.

Cross Nurses Creed. She exhibits compassion, professionalism, nursing expertise and care in every aspect of her role and trains and coaches her team to do the same. She is exceptional and supportive; she engages nurses as soon as they onboard. In fact, during a recent onboarding of a new Regional Nurse Lead, Hurley quickly took her under her wing in educating her on DHS. Hurley

Support our Holiday Giving Campaign

The American Red Cross asks everyone to remember people in need this holiday season and give to the Red Cross Holiday Giving Campaign.

Your support will bring comfort and hope to

always provides exemplary service in volunteer leadership and has for many years, leading the DHS regional team. All the members of her team are very committed and engaged with the Red Cross mission. Her ability to identify areas for volunteer performance improvement is complemented by her humanity and skill at establishing thoughtful two-way communications, resulting in enhanced volunteer performance.

Though Hurley does not like to hold the title of a leader or manager, she is the definition of a great leader and mentor. She is the 'go to' person for all things related to care within DHS: she is an expert and works with a diverse team of volunteers to onboard, train and support them in their journey within the Red Cross. Hurley often prefers to work in the background or filling shifts for DROs. By staying under the radar she does not get the full recognition she deserves for the hundreds of hours she works behind the scenes in support of many DROs. But her leadership and support to volunteers result in expanded service delivery to clients.

Hurley goes above and beyond the call of duty to support the medical needs of clients: she overcomes barriers through effective use of her professional skills to achieve excellent client results. When needed, she does not hesitate to ask for exceptions to quickly support a client's health needs. Hurley trains, mentors and collaborates with peers and partners to address medical concerns for those affected by disasters, resulting in enhancing client care services. As I write this article, Hurley is again providing superb leadership and client care in Maui. Marianne Hurley is a hidden gem in the Red Cross and as such, deserves this ray of light being shone on her in recognition of her ongoing brilliant contributions to client care, mentoring, capacity building and ongoing achievement of the Red Cross mission.



Hurley in Maui

Molly Dalton

disaster victims across the country. Many face dark days and uncertainty as they try to figure out what to do next. *Give Something that Means Something* and support those who need a helping hand.

The Red Cross is responding to almost twice as many large disasters as we did a decade ago. In fact, during the last few years, there was a new, major disaster response every 10 days. Visit redcross.org/gift and support Red Cross Disaster Services this holiday season.



Red Cross volunteer Deborah Trimiar speaks with a service member at Andrews Air Force Base in Morningside, MD. Volunteers greet soldiers, contractors or military families living overseas who need more comprehensive medical care than their duty station can provide. Photo by Daniel St. Ours /American Red Cross

Help disaster victims

Emergencies can force families to leave their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs. That's why a Red Cross response always begins with a safe place to sleep, hot food and a hug. For \$50, you can help by supplying a full day of emergency shelter with urgently needed essentials, including 3 meals, 2 blankets, 1 cot and personal hygiene supplies for people impacted by disaster.

Vivian Littlefield, In Memoriam

[Vivian Littlefield](#), PhD, RN, FAAN, long-time American Red Cross volunteer, passed away August 22nd in Parker, Colorado. During her distinguished service to the Red Cross, she served as Biomedical Nursing Chair and National Chair of Nursing and received both the Florence Nightingale Medal and Ann Magnussen Award.

Dr. Littlefield was responsible for establishing the Red Cross Nursing Heritage Program, an effort to reconnect, recognize and seek resources from past and present Red Cross nurses. She also helped establish this newsletter — *Nursing Matters Past and Present* — written by, for and about Red Cross nurses and other health professionals. Littlefield served as a writer and chair for the newsletter from its inception until her passing.

She began her relationship with the Red Cross by serving on the board of the Badger Red Cross Chapter in Madison, Wisconsin, later becoming chairperson of the board and Health and Safety volunteer chair, while working as Dean of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also served as interim executive director and led the



Dr. Vivian Littlefield, Ann Magnussen Award recipient

Help our veterans. Your gift helps connect veterans and their families to critical community services, such as food, housing, mental health care and rehabilitation. Be there for veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much for our country during difficult times.

Help internationally. Help vaccinate children overseas and provide protection for life. For just \$20 you can provide vaccinations for 10 children. Together with our Measles & Rubella Initiative

partners, you can help educate families about the dangers of these diseases and vaccinate children against them.

#GiveWithMeaning this holiday season at redcross.org/gift or give a \$10 donation by texting REDCROSS to 90999.

Molly Dalton

chapter's response to 9/11, deploying staff and volunteers to help at Ground Zero.

Her true passion was nursing. She was a nurse, leader, educator and dean over the course of her working career. During her time volunteering as Red Cross Biomedical Nursing Chair, she released a nationwide program involving nursing students and community blood donor education. Once described as the glue that held Red Cross nursing together during a difficult reorganization, Littlefield served as National Chair of Nursing when the Red

Cross eliminated the Chief Nurse position. It fell to Littlefield to lead Red Cross nursing as a volunteer. She revitalized the National Nursing Committee which worked to reestablish the Chief Nurse position. The effort



Littlefield received the Florence Nightingale Medal in 2013. From left: Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, Red Cross Chairman; Dr. Linda MacIntyre, Chief Nurse; Dr. Vivian Littlefield; and Jerry DeFrancisco, then President Humanitarian Services.

proved successful, and the position was restored.

Recognized for her outstanding service, Littlefield was the recipient of both the Florence Nightingale Medal in 2013, the highest international Red Cross distinction awarded to a nurse, as well as the Ann Magnussen Award in 2012, highest honor of national nursing achievement in the American Red Cross.

Current Chief Nurse Linda MacIntyre is grateful for Littlefield's mentorship when she followed in Littlefield's footsteps as the National Chair of Nursing. "Vivian was a strong advocate for nurses and nursing students in supporting the mission of the Red Cross. She remained actively involved with the Red Cross and I will miss her compassion and insights. I have no doubt that the impact of her leadership will be present for years to come," MacIntyre said.



Dr. Vivian Littlefield (right) with Dr. Donna Shalala at the 2010 Littlefield Leadership Lecture, where Dr. Shalala, Co-Chair of the first Institute of Medicine Study on the Future of Nursing, was the featured speaker.

Ross Ogden, executive volunteer for Red Cross Blood Services and former Board of Governors member, worked with Littlefield for years and described her as a remarkable Red Cross volunteer leader. "We worked together on projects, including reestablishing the position of Chief Nurse, enhancing Disaster Health Services, and increasing youth involvement. Her knowledge of nursing and higher education was instrumental in building Red Cross nursing. In the final weeks of her life, she continued to serve on the National Nursing Committee's Biomedical Services workgroup and write for the nursing heritage newsletter. It might be said that she faithfully walked in the shoes of Jane Delano," he said.

Former Chief Nurse Sharon Stanley said as volunteer partner to the Chief Nurse and a national nursing leader, Littlefield was crucial to the continuance of volunteer nurse performance and American Red Cross health support. "She provided guidance and personal leadership, working full-time before and during my first year of appointment to ensure team success and the best of health services for our communities and clients. I remain in awe of her abilities to support, sustain, and give her vast expertise to make the Red Cross

its best for both volunteers and the public served," Stanley stated.

Littlefield served as a Professor, Dean and [Dean Emerita of the School of Nursing, University of Wisconsin-Madison](#), Wisconsin; former Chairperson/Clinical Chief, Women's Health Care; and Associate Professor, School of Nursing, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. Littlefield held a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, Master of Science degree in Nursing, certification as a Clinical Specialist (Advanced Practice Nurse), a Doctor of Philosophy degree and a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). She also authored *Health Education for Women: A Guide for Nurses and Other Health*

Professionals. A [leadership lecture series](#) named in honor of Dr. Vivian Littlefield is held annually at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

[Ed. comment: If you are interested in hearing Vivian talk in 2001 about her past experience, notably as Dean of Nursing at UW-Madison (and/or just want to hear her voice again) check out this recorded [oral history interview](#) by Signe Skott Cooper, MEd, RN, FAAN. One comment she made during the interview was: "The thing about the Red Cross is, nobody while you're [working] in an academic role says, "thank you," but [working with] the Red Cross, they thank people for everything. They can make you feel good every day."

Working with Vivian on the newsletter had a similar uplifting effect. She is missed.]

AMERICAN RED CROSS
NURSING MATTERS PAST AND PRESENT First Edition
 February 2011

The Heritage Program

Nursing has a long history with the American Red Cross; in fact 2009 was a hundred year milestone for Red Cross Nursing. In recognition of this historical milestone and the National Nursing Committee's strategic initiative to Reconnect, Recognize and assure Resources for Red Cross Nursing's future the Heritage Program was established.

The National Nursing Committee wants to hear and share the stories of former and current Red Cross nurses. This newsletter was created to recognize this group of nurses and recount them to our current and future activities. It is anticipated that the stories will illustrate that our heritage assures our future. The work group that created the Heritage Program has now contacted 300 nurses to ask what would be meaningful to them. There was a very positive response to have a newsletter sharing nurses' stories from the past but also sharing current activities of nurses today. This edition of NURSING MATTERS: PAST AND PRESENT is our first effort. OUR HERITAGE ASSURES OUR FUTURE.

The Mission of the Heritage Committee is to recognize and assure resources for the future of Red Cross Nursing.

The Mission of the Heritage Committee is to:

- establish a data base for communication to former and current nurse volunteers
- recognize former and current Red Cross nurses by collecting and publishing their contributions.
- communicate current activities and advocacy needs of Red Cross Nursing for future success.
- offer a new opportunity to provide a special fund for nursing initiatives in the Red Cross.

Donna Dorsey, Vice Chair of the National Nursing Committee receives the Hartman Leadership Award from Bonnie McElwaine-Haines, Chairwoman of the Red Cross Board of Governors

Red Cross Nurses' Stories from the Past
 Cotton and Polyester Memories: Joan Smith-Walleck RN

Some people catalog their memories with photos and scrapbooks. Others reminisce through story telling. Joan Smith-Walleck RN, a Red Cross nurse since 1970, memorializes her volunteer work through her collection of vintage Red Cross shirts, vests, jackets and pins. Each item connects Joan with a story and a memory. She is proud of the twenty years of service symbolized by the collection.

A resident of Woodbury, Connecticut, Joan said that she had trouble parting with these items of clothing and had carefully stored them away for years. However, when contacted by the Nursing Heritage Program sponsored by the National Nursing Committee of the American Red Cross, she removed the materials and began to tell her stories and accompany the stories with pieces of her Red Cross Gear.

Joan did not start out as a disaster volunteer. She was a public health and school nurse who volunteered for the Red Cross teaching baby-sitting

The first edition of this newsletter, in which Vivian wrote that the "stories of former and current Red Cross nurses ... will illustrate that our heritage assures our future."

Receive a Lifetime of Payments with a Gift from your IRA

Corie Story

A new law allows donors over age 70½ to receive a lifetime of payments in return for a contribution from their IRA to the American Red Cross. The plan combines a charitable gift annuity and a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA.

Charitable Gift Annuity – A charitable gift annuity is a simple contract between you and the Red Cross promising to pay you a fixed amount of money each year for life. The gift annuity contract is issued to you in exchange for your charitable contribution. The amount the Red Cross can agree to pay you depends upon your age at the time of your gift and does not change for the rest of your lifetime.

Qualified Charitable Distribution – A QCD is a contribution from your IRA directly to the Red Cross. You can make a QCD if you are at least age 70½ at the time of your gift. Unlike other withdrawals from retirement accounts, you pay no income tax on a QCD. In addition, your QCD contribution counts toward your required minimum distributions from your IRA without creating taxable income for you.

Gift Annuity in return for a QCD – Under a new law, donors can make a qualified charitable

distribution in exchange for a charitable gift annuity. There are some rules and limitations:

- You can exercise this option only once during your lifetime and there is an aggregate limit of \$50,000
- The entire payment you receive from your charitable gift annuity will be subject to income tax
- You can include your spouse as a recipient of the annuity payment
- There is no income tax deduction for this contribution, although there is no tax on the QCD

We would be happy to collaborate with you and your advisors to help determine whether a QCD in exchange for a charitable gift annuity could work for you.

For more information, please contact Sr. Gift Planning Officer, Corie Story at 314-239-2524 or by email at corie.story@redcross.org.

AMERICAN RED CROSS National Nursing Committee Heritage Sub-Committee Members: Elizabeth Kazmier, Editor; Molly Dalton; Bill Darr; Donna Dorsey; Linda MacIntyre; April Matthias; Cheryl Schmidt; Corie Story



Help us connect with and recognize other current and former Red Cross Nurses!

Please send the email, phone, and address of your friends and colleagues to us at RedCrossNurse@redcross.org. Share this newsletter via email and/or your preferred social media. Go to <http://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/nursing-health/nursing-network> and select a link under “View Previous Issues.”

Thank you!