



Happy Nurses Month

Happy Nurses Month! I am deeply grateful to Red Cross nurses (RNs, LPNs and LVNs) and all who partner with us. I especially appreciate our health and mental health professional colleagues who share their expertise. We could not be successful without the whole team. I sometimes struggle to describe the depth and breadth of the work that you

Linda MacIntyre, PhD, RN, PHN, FAAN

do to deliver the Red Cross mission. In essence, you support the person in need. You use your education, experiences, creativity and collaboration to address the needs at hand. You also support your colleagues. You improve processes and systems to better serve tomorrow. At the center is the person in their community. Thank you for all you do!

RED CROSS NURSES

*Weaving, pulling, gathering the strands.
So many roles; so many connections.
The colors blur in a kaleidoscope of service.
The breadth and depth of your work
can overwhelm
those who want to understand.
They look for a single thread
but the threads are intertwined,
and you're interconnected.
What holds this living tapestry together?
Mutual trust strengthened by
respectful action,
the joy in connecting
and the person at the center.*



Nursing and Health May 2023 Symposium

Posie Carpenter, RN, MSN, MPH

The Red Cross Nursing and Health unit began offering the Nurses Month Symposium in 2021. The purpose is to educate, advocate for communities and celebrate the diverse work of nurses and other health professionals serving communities through the Red Cross mission.

The 2023 Nurses Month Symposium is titled **Supporting Nurses and Colleagues to Achieve Health Equity** and will consist of four weekly sessions:

- **Session 1:** [Achieving Health Equity Begins with Self-Care](#)
Tuesday, May 2, 4:00-5:00 p.m. ET
- **Session 2:** [The Role of Recognition in Achieving Health Equity](#)
Tuesday, May 9, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
- **Session 3:** [Leading to Achieve Health Equity](#)
Tuesday, May 16, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
- **Session 4:** [Engaging Communities to Achieve Health Equity](#)
Tuesday, May 23, 4:00-5:00 p.m. ET

To promote understanding and appreciation of the valuable contributions nurses make to support the achievement of health equity, this symposium is organized to reflect the four focus areas designated by the American Nurses Association (ANA) for the month-long celebration of nurses: Self-Care, Recognition, Professional Development and Community Engagement. Each session will highlight ways in which Red Cross nurses support

the achievement of health equity in their communities.

Each session is approved for 1.0 contact hour by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Sessions will be held on Teams via the links above and will be recorded. Please contact RedCrossNurse@redcross.org with questions.

Share **YOUR** Red Cross Story!

The American Red Cross National Nursing Committee is leading a project to compile the stories of nurses and other health professionals, focusing on why they volunteer for the Red Cross. The Committee is asking you to **share your Red Cross story in a short video**.

Great video vignettes are short and snappy, have a beginning, middle and end, and inspire emotion. Write your script before filming, giving special

Posie Carpenter, RN, MSN, MPH

attention to the story that you are trying to tell and how you want your viewers to feel. Choose a background that is appropriate to your story and locate a spot where your camera or phone will provide the best coverage. Run through your script a few times prior to filming. When you are ready, record your video on your phone, Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Forward your completed video (or link to your video) and / or any questions you might have to RedCrossNurse@redcross.org.

Critical Need for Volunteers as Frequency of Large Disasters Grows **Molly Dalton**

Massive disasters have been plaguing the country since 2023 began and experts predict active hurricane and wildfire seasons are just ahead. With the American Red Cross workforce made up of 90 percent volunteers, there is a critical need for more individuals to volunteer so we can support people who depend on the Red Cross for help.



Linda Fahey has been a registered nurse since 1975. After retiring, she decided to volunteer for the Red Cross. She used her nursing skills recently at a Red Cross shelter opened after a tornado hit Little Rock, AR. She talked to shelter resident Jennifer O'Connor, with her dog Ladybug nearby. Photo by Kevin Suttlehan/American Red Cross

Thousands of American Red Cross volunteers from all over the country have been helping people from coast to coast since the start of the year, supporting thousands of people impacted by flooding, blizzards, severe weather and deadly tornadoes.

CRITICAL NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Red Cross is now launching nearly twice as many relief operations for major disasters than we did a decade ago. We need to increase our volunteer capacity so we can continue responding on a near-constant basis.

As we head into the spring, the Red Cross is working to grow our disaster workforce as we get ready for the upcoming hurricane and wildfire seasons. Spring into action and join us by becoming a volunteer today.

We are actively recruiting and scheduling training for the following critical volunteer roles:

- **Shelter Support Team:** Supports the day-to-day activities

within a shelter. May include working in reception, registration, feeding, dormitory, information or other areas.

- **Disaster Health Services Team:** Licensed healthcare professionals provide hands-on care, health education, health assessments and additional health-related support in shelters.
- **Disaster Action Team (DAT):** Respond to local disasters such as home fires to ensure that those affected have access to resources for necessities such as food, shelter and clothing.

- **Recovery Client Care Program Service Associate:** Supports disaster-caused needs of individuals and families with casework and recovery planning by matching Red Cross and community resources and assistance to these

needs.

The need to help during disasters has never been greater. Visit [redcross.org/volunteertoday](https://www.redcross.org/volunteertoday) to sign up for opportunities with your local chapter.

Spring Brings Its Own Severe Weather – Get Ready Now

Molly Dalton

Spring is finally here with its warmer temperatures and longer days. But spring also brings its own severe weather threats - [thunderstorms](#), [tornadoes](#) and [flooding](#). Check out these American Red Cross links to find safety information for the severe weather you may face in the spring.

Thunderstorms produce lightning, which unfortunately kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes. Their heavy rains can cause flash flooding and their strong winds can damage homes and cause power outages.

Tornadoes are more common in the Plains states but can occur anywhere. They are violent and capable of destroying homes and businesses and leaving people with nothing.

Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters. Flooding often occurs following a hurricane, thawing snow, or several days of sustained rain. Flash floods occur suddenly, due to rapidly rising water along a stream or low-lying area.

You can find [safety information about all different kinds of emergencies](#) in the preparedness section of the Red Cross web site. Information is available on what to do before, during and after a storm or other emergency.

So what should people do to be prepared should an emergency threaten their community? Planning is the key. They need to know what emergencies are most likely to happen where they live, learn, work and play. Being prepared is just a few short steps away:

1. [Get a kit.](#) If you've ever fumbled to find a



flashlight during a blackout, you know what it feels like to not be prepared. Get your emergency preparedness kit ready. You should include:

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and water—one gallon per person, per day for drinking and hygiene purposes
 - Battery-powered or hand crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
 - Flashlight and extra batteries
 - First aid kit, medications and medical items
 - Copies of all important documents (proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
 - Extra cash
2. [Make a plan.](#) Talk with household members about what you would do during emergencies. Plan what to do in case you are separated, and choose two places to meet - one right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency such as a fire, and another outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate.
 - Choose a contact person from out of the area and make sure all household members have this person's phone number and email address. It may be easier to call long distance or text if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service.
 - Tell everyone in the household where emergency information and supplies are kept.
 - Practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on a map in case main roads are impassable.
 - Don't forget your pets. If you must evacuate, make arrangements for your animals. Keep a phone list of "pet friendly" motels/hotels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes.

3. **Be informed.** Know the risks where you live, work, learn and play.

- Arm yourself with information about what to do in case an emergency occurs. Remember that emergencies like fires and blackouts can happen anywhere, so everyone should be prepared for them.
 - Find out how you would receive information from local officials in the event of an emergency.
 - Learn first aid and CPR/AED so that you have the skills to respond in an emergency before help arrives, especially during a disaster when emergency responders may not be as available.
- A variety of online, in-classroom and blended

(part online and part in the classroom) training courses are available at redcross.org/takeaclass.

Download our apps. Download the free Red Cross First Aid app so you'll know what to do if emergency help is delayed, and the free Emergency app for weather alerts, open Red Cross shelter locations and safety steps for different emergencies. Choose whether you want to view the content in English or Spanish with an easy-to-find language selector. Find these and all the Red Cross apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

American Red Cross Nurses Focus on Global Immunization Education and Advocacy in Washington, D.C.

James Noe

From February 27 to March 1, the United Nations (UN) Foundation held their 2023 Shot@Life Champion Summit in Washington, D.C. As one of the American Red Cross' core collaborators in the [Measles & Rubella Partnership](#) (M&RP), the UN Foundation graciously extended an invitation to have Red Cross nurses participate in the event. The overall goal of the Summit was to mobilize advocates from around the U.S. to meet with congressional offices and provide education and advocacy for immunization programs. As trusted experts in health-related issues, nurses are an excellent fit for this role and build upon the foundation of the Red Cross Health Educator Programs.



Red Cross representatives at the Summit: Linda MacIntyre, James Noe and Pat Chappell.

included representatives from the World Health Organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USAID, Geneva Learning Foundation, CSL Seqirus and Takeda.

The Summit culminated with a successful Hill Day event with advocates from 34 states meeting with more than 140 congressional offices. During the meetings, Red Cross nurses provided education on the [ongoing global burden of vaccine-preventable diseases](#), highlighting measles and rubella, and explained

why support from the U.S. is so critical for saving lives both domestically and abroad. Overall, the participation of the Red Cross was very appreciated and helped to strengthen our coordination and bonds with our M&RP partners. Attending the Shot@Life Champions Summit was a tremendous opportunity and one which we hope to make an annual occurrence.

Two Red Cross nurses participated in all three days of the Summit and learned about critical topics related to global immunization programs to better prepare them for their meetings with the congressional offices. Speakers at the event

2022 Ann Magnussen Award Recipient: Patricia Chappell, BSN, MS, MA, Colonel (Ret) USAF, NC

Posie Carpenter, RN, MSN, MPH

The [Ann Magnussen Award](#) is presented annually to a volunteer or employed registered nurse who has made an outstanding contribution to strengthening or improving American Red Cross programs and services. It is the highest honor of nursing achievement in the American Red Cross.

The 2022 Ann Magnussen Award recipient is Pat Chappell, a retired Air Force Colonel with a 30-year career in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps and a dedicated Red Crosser with more than 18 years of volunteer service. Chappell began volunteering for the Red Cross at the Colorado Pikes Peak Chapter in 2004 as a Disaster Action

Team Nurse member. She eventually was appointed to the chapter Board of Directors as Emergency Services lead. Chappell also served as both Chapter and Regional Disaster Health Services (DHS) lead, Service Area DHS lead and Government Operations team lead. During this latter assignment, Chappell engaged with community organizations such as the El Paso County Health



From left: Linda MacIntyre, Chief Nurse, Pat Chappell and Gail McGovern, President and CEO, at the Leadership Awards Luncheon at National Headquarters in April 2023. Photo by Dermot Tatlow/American Red Cross

Department and the El Paso Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). In this capacity she developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) between the MRC and the Pikes Peak chapter. This agreement served as the initial template for the national MOU for DHS and the MRC. Due to her partnership with the County Health Department and both City and County Emergency Management, she was asked to represent the Red Cross in several airline disaster exercises. As a result of this involvement, Chappell facilitated the development of the County and Public Health Family Reunification and Family Assistance Center policies and procedures ensuring Red Cross roles and responsibilities were accurately represented.

Chappell has a deep sense of duty and dedication to the Red Cross mission. She has supported Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives, mentored and advocated for fellow nurse volunteers, taken active roles in alleviating suffering caused by disasters and has shown the ability to lead partners to solve complex disaster response problems. There are so many stories to tell of Pat Chappell's contributions to the Red Cross mission – this article will provide a sampling of the highlights.

Since 2005, Pat Chappell has served on 37 Red Cross Disaster Relief Operations (DROs) involving blizzards, fires, floods, hurricanes, tornados and civil disturbances. Across all, she worked tirelessly to build the capacity of Disaster Health Services locally, regionally and nationally and was the catalyst for developing the most engaged and robust Disaster Health Services team in the Colorado & Wyoming Region.

Notably, 2012 brought wildfires and devastating floods to Colorado. Chappell was in the role of Job Director and assisted up to 80,000 people affected by what was then the largest wildfire in Colorado history. To address the impacts of the floods, Chappell became a Colorado Office of Emergency Management State appointed Mass Care Council Chair. Chappell facilitated the development

of state-wide sheltering and feeding plans. The feeding plan expanded disaster feeding capability from five to more than fourteen resources and formed a template for new disaster feeding plans for five additional states.

Chappell approaches her humanitarian work with laser focus and absolute devotion to others. During the July 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire, 32,000 people were evacuated as fires raged on the outskirts of Colorado Springs. Chappell had already been serving in Red Cross disaster relief operation (DRO) leadership when she herself was ordered to evacuate her home. While 18,000 acres burned, 32,000 people were evacuated, and all watched in agony as 346 homes in military communities and neighborhoods were destroyed, Chappell volunteered. When she returned to the DRO, she focused on the operation, working tirelessly to support her Colorado neighbors for nearly 3 weeks. 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.

During the Texas Blizzards/Snowstorms of February 2021, Chappell deployed for two weeks as DHS Integrated Care Condolence Team (ICCT) lead. One of her many qualifications that made her well-suited to supporting this DRO is her training to serve on the ICCT. ICCT is a comprehensive service delivery method that provides coordination and provision of services to families whose loved ones are missing, injured or deceased. In order to minimize intrusion and maximize care, comfort

and support, casework and recovery planning, disaster spiritual care, disaster mental health and disaster health services are offered concurrently as needed. Chappell brings this special skill to her disaster work.

Some of the Red Cross' most difficult disaster responses including civil disturbances have been supported by Chappell. She deployed to the October 2017 Las Vegas response and the November 2022 Colorado Springs response. In the former, Chappell served as an External Relations, Government Operations Supervisor, and, in the latter, Chappell served as Operations Management, External Relations, Assistant Director. Her consistent willingness to give of herself during some of the most profoundly difficult and emotional responses clearly demonstrates Chappell's spirit of compassion.

In her current role as Southwest and Rocky Mountain Division Nurse Leader (DNL), Chappell

leads nurse volunteers, holding monthly meetings in which she organizes priorities and agendas, mentors, teaches, problem solves and collaborates. At her meetings, Chappell models a professional, collegial and business-like approach for attendees; she asks perceptive questions and demonstrates how to develop productive, targeted solutions; she suggests ways to partner and collaborate; and she provides resources. This past year as DNL, Chappell was instrumental in recruiting twenty Red Cross nurses to serve on a COVID contact tracing team. Chappell truly excels in supporting initiatives and encouraging others to join her.

Pat Chappell's compassion and professionalism inspire fellow volunteers and employees to improve delivery of the Red Cross mission. She embodies the humanitarian spirit and has consistently helped strengthen American Red Cross programs and services, well-suited her to be the 2022 Ann Magnussen recipient. Congratulations to Pat Chappell on this well-deserved honor.

Los Angeles Region Receives 2022 Susan Hassmiller Nursing Award

Posie Carpenter, RN, MSN, MPH

The [Susan Hassmiller Nursing Award](#) provides grant support of \$5,000 for a Red Cross proposal that promotes nurse and nursing student engagement in Red Cross lines of business and/or in policy and leadership roles. Submissions are invited from chapters, regions and stations, and external collaboration is encouraged. The proposal must be replicable and sustainable. The 2022 Susan Hassmiller Nursing Award was presented to the Los Angeles Region during the April 2023 National Awards Ceremony.

A team of Nursing and Health volunteers led by Ryland Hamlet, MBA, RN, Pacific Division Nurse Leader, developed and submitted the winning Hassmiller Award proposal on behalf of the Los Angeles Region. The focus of the proposal is to design and implement a replicable, volunteer-driven, passive nursing and healthcare volunteer



From left: Susan Hassmiller, Posie Carpenter, National Nursing Network Director, Ryland Hamlet and Gail McGovern at the Leadership Awards Luncheon in April 2023. Photo by Dermot Tatlow/American Red Cross

recruitment program to fill critical volunteer positions for the Pacific and the North Central Divisions. The team recognized that the Red Cross has an opportunity to increase the volunteer candidate pool by targeting passive volunteer recruits who have the skillset needed to fill critical positions. Passive recruits are individuals who are not actively seeking volunteer

opportunities. Widely used in industry recruitment for open employment positions, Advanced Recruitment Tools (ART) are now available and can be leveraged to support a passive recruitment process for Red Cross nursing and healthcare volunteers. ART automate the finding, contacting and follow-up of passive candidates by sending out customized emails, text messages and interactive voice responses to prospective recruits. The ART platform proposed for use in the project is Twilio, which offers personalized customer engagement

services. Currently used by the American Red Cross and its primarily volunteer workforce to streamline volunteer dispatch for disasters, Twilio boasts helping Red Cross to [staff disasters 50% faster](#).

With the Susan Hassmiller Nursing Award, the team plans to develop and implement a process that utilizes ART to increase the number of nursing and healthcare volunteer candidate applicants that ultimately commit to becoming a Red Cross volunteer. The overall project contains four major phases. The proof-of-concept Phase I has been underway since the start of fiscal year 2023 and formed the basis for the team's proposal. In Phase II, another division will be added, likely the North Central Division, which participated in the proof-of-concept phase and is eager to begin implementation. Phase III will include conducting a project evaluation, codifying the process, and developing a toolkit. The toolkit is expected to include a "how to" job tool, position descriptions, implementation and marketing videos, email / messaging templates, spam / phishing avoidance guidelines, suggested partner lists, script and marketing tools for community partner requests for email lists, suggested learning community topics and content around recruitment using ART, recognition tools for partners, and recognition tools for recruitment team members who implement the ART system. The project's goal is to replicate the

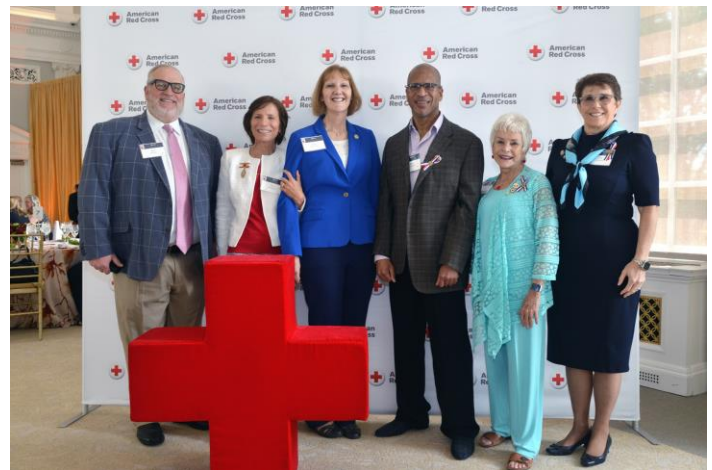
Sharing the News: New Publication

Taking Action: Top 10 Priorities to Promote Health Equity and Well-Being in Nursing is a new book from Sigma Theta Tau Publisher with Sue Hassmiller, RN, PhD, FAAN serving as a co-editor. The book addresses important issues to nurses, written in short essays by a long list of experienced nursing leaders. For example, Linda MacIntyre, PhD, RN, PHN, FAAN, highlights what it's like to volunteer for the American Red Cross at times of disaster and the training needed to do so. Kathryn Booth, DNP, RN, CNL, illustrates how nurses serving in disasters and public health emergencies are victims themselves of stress and chaos and offers a methodology called HeartMath as a resilience-building strategy. Donna Mazyck, MS, RN, NCSN, CAE, FNASN, discusses keys to collaboration including developing a shared agenda, clearly defining roles, sharing data, finding funding and managing resources.

perfected concept across all divisions by the end of Q4 FY 2025.

Division Nurse Leaders, Regional Nurse Leads and other Nursing Network team members will be an integral part of the program development in each region, as will national and local partners who will be engaged to help generate and build lists of potential recruits.

Congratulations to Ryland Hamlet and the Los Angeles Region as they embark on developing this new recruitment process for the American Red Cross.



From left: Matt Bertram, Vice President of Volunteer Services, Susan Hassmiller, Linda MacIntyre, Ryland Hamlet, Pat Chappell and Posie Carpenter at the Leadership Awards Luncheon at National Headquarters in April 2023. Photo by Dermot Tatlow/American Red Cross

The ten topic areas highlighted in the book, that include not only essays, but also poetry, song lyrics, and art, are:

1. Health Equity
2. Education Reform
3. Diversity and Mentorship
4. Care Delivery: Quality, Safety, Access
5. Multi-Sector Collaboration
6. Preparing for Disasters and Public Health Emergencies
7. Innovation and Entrepreneurship
8. Nurse Well-Being: Compassion for Self and Others
9. Global Stewardship
10. Nursing's Voice in Leading Change

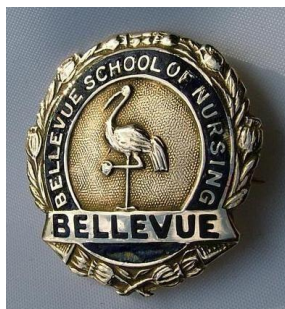
The book offers action-oriented strategies for all nurses who aspire to make a difference in their profession and in the communities where they work. It can be ordered from the [Sigma Theta Tau](#) website or on [Amazon](#).

The American Red Cross Nurse's Badge

April Matthias, PhD, RN, CNE

The Red Cross nurse's badge, or pin, has served as a symbol for nursing and humanitarian service since 1906.

The nursing pin is a symbol with rich history. The Maltese cross was worn by the Knights Hospitallers starting in the 16th century as a symbol of meritorious service. Florence Nightingale's Training School for Nurses at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, which opened in 1860, awarded a pin that incorporated the Maltese cross to nursing students on graduation. American hospital training schools for nurses adopted Nightingale's training school model and the practice of awarding a school pin to graduating students. The Bellevue Hospital Training School for Nurses in New York opened in 1873 and was one of the first hospital training schools in America that followed the Nightingale



A Bellevue School of Nursing pin.

model. Bellevue was also the first American training school to present a pin to students at graduation. The pin featured a crane in the center representing vigilance, surrounded by a wreath of poppies signifying the role of nurses in the relief of suffering and an unbroken circle of blue to represent constancy. A nursing pin signified that the nurse was trained and prepared to serve the health needs of society. Eventually, each school of nursing designed and awarded a customized pin, thus the pin identified where the nurse had completed her training. This tradition of a nurse's pin was adopted by the American Red Cross.

In her 1949 book, *The Red Cross Nurse in Action: 1882-1948*, Portia Kernodle explains that the design of the Red Cross nurse's badge was inspired



Design of the AMA's badge (center).

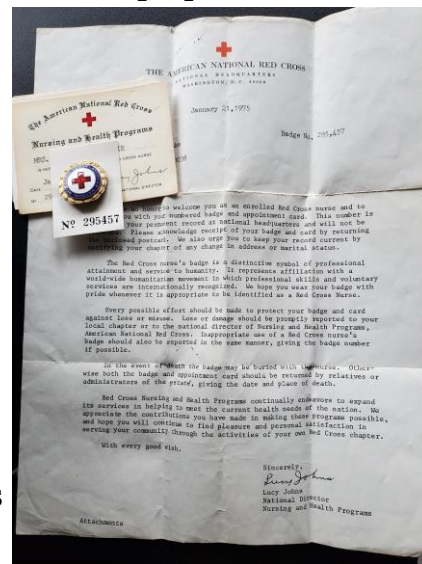
by the American Medical Association pin. A wreath of laurel leaves was added to the outside edge, a band of blue was added inside the wreath and "American National Red Cross Nurse" was

printed in gold within the blue band. Kernodle notes that the design was adopted in July 1906 with the first order of 250 badges placed in August 1906. A 1963 letter written by National Director of Nursing Services Ann Magnussen states that the original decisions concerning the design were made by staff and approved by the Executive Committee of the Central Committee. Following placement of the first order, the committee decided to have consecutive numbers engraved on the back of badges to designate the enrollment number for each nurse. The first order of numbered badges was placed in July 1909 and began with number 768. Jane Delano became the Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps and Chair of the Red Cross Nursing Service in 1909 and received the badge



numbered 775. Delano set out to compile a list of the first enrolled nurses who had received a badge without a number; however, this list was never completed.

When the badge became a symbol for the Red Cross nurse, enrollment into the Red Cross required the nurse to have a minimum of three years of training from a reputable hospital-based nursing school. Therefore, the Red Cross badge identified the nurse to have adequate educational preparation and a desire to serve in the humanitarian movement. The badge was owned by the American Red Cross and under an Act of Congress, could not be worn by anyone except the nurse who was issued the badge. With their badge, nurses also received regulations regarding the badge. In case of



A badge from 1975 and the welcome letter sent with it, with instructions.

withdrawal from enrollment, the badge was to be returned to the Red Cross. In case of death, the badge could be buried with the nurse or was to be returned to the Red Cross. Over the years, many badges have been returned; however, many are in the possession of those who were not issued the badge. The practice of returning the badge to the Red Cross was eventually eliminated due a lack of resources for ongoing badge tracking.

By June 1920, the American Red Cross had enrolled more than 36,000 nurses, including the first 104 African American nurses. Starting in 1917, African American Red Cross nurses were issued badges consecutively numbered beginning at 1 with the letter “A” engraved on the back with the enrollment number to delineate the nurse’s race. By 1946, nurse enrollment reached 195,231 including 363 male nurses and 1,846 African American nurses.

While, in the early 1900s, the issuance of these badges was believed to reflect successful advocacy to allow African American nurses to serve in the Red Cross and its reserves for the U.S. military, it is important to emphasize that this past practice of segregation by race is incomprehensible and abhorrent. The practice of assigning separate badge numbers accompanied by the letter “A” for African American Red Cross nurses was discontinued in 1949.

Today, Red Cross nurse badge numbers have surpassed 402,000. Red Cross nurses are eligible to receive a badge once they provide at least 20 hours of service with the Red Cross. Each badge remains consecutively numbered and comes with documentation explaining that the number is unique to the nurse. A Red Cross nurse is only

given one numbered badge. Non-numbered badges are available should an original badge be lost or stolen; however, the nurse is responsible for engraving their number on the back of the replacement badge.



The badge remains a Red Cross tradition. As explained by Chief Nurse Dr. Linda MacIntyre in the documentation that accompanies today’s badges, the badge serves as “a distinctive symbol of professional attainment and service to humanity.” It provides a tangible way to display “affiliation with the worldwide Red Cross commitment to the prevention and relief of suffering.” The badge identifies one as a Red Cross nurse, promotes service and volunteerism, and celebrates the nurse’s commitment to the mission of the Red Cross.

I encourage you to locate your badge and as you read your enrollment number, take a moment to reflect and think about the nurses whose numbers came before yours and whose numbers follow yours. Wear your badge with pride! I wish each of you a happy Nurse’s Month! May we forever honor our Red Cross nurse colleagues, every single nurse from numbers 1 and 1A of the past, to infinity into the future.

References

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- Shulman, J. (2014). History of the American Red Cross nurse badge. *Nursing Matters Past & Present*, 13, 5-7.

Historical Clara Barton Dress from 1860s Restored and On Display Molly Dalton

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, is one of the most honored women in American history.

A compassionate and tenacious trailblazer, Clara believed in serving others. She built a legacy of service, innovation and hope when she founded the American Red Cross at age 59 and led the organization for more than 20



Clara Barton

years.

A remarkable piece of Clara’s history, a dress which actually belonged to her, is now on display at Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Clara’s dress – which was designed to convey respectability and gravitas – was worn by Clara most likely when she was



Dress is made of expensive, imported silk brocade worn by Clara Barton in the 1860s. According to family history, the dress was worn during a trip to Europe in the 1870s with her niece, Mamie Stafford. The dress would have been worn for special occasions, luncheons or speaking engagements. Red Cross photo by Dennis Drenner

giving speeches or meeting with members of the U.S. Congress or military generals.

Thanks to Clara's great, great, great niece, Sue Stafford, for graciously donating the dress to the Red Cross and long-time Red Crosser and [Tiffany Circle](#) member, Barbara Bovender, who made the display and restoration of this artifact possible.

[See more about the dress in this video.](#)

ANGEL OF THE BATTLEFIELD Born on Christmas Day in

1821, Clarissa Harlowe Barton — or Clara, as she wished to be called — was the fifth child of Stephen and Sarah Barton in North Oxford, Massachusetts. During her early career, she successfully obtained equal pay as an in-demand teacher. As she put it then, “I may sometimes be willing to teach for nothing, but if paid at all, I shall never do a man’s work for less than a man's pay.”

After teaching, Clara moved to Washington, D.C., and worked at the U.S. Patent Office, where she was one of the first women to work for the federal government. Driven by a desire to be useful and



Skirt for Clara Barton dress – conservator showing the lining and hem. The hem and lining were in disrepair when the dress was received. The original hem was restored and the lining repaired. Red Cross photo by Dennis Drenner

help those in need, she sprang into action when the Civil War broke out, earning the nickname “Angel of the Battlefield” for her work to care for soldiers on the frontlines. Exhausted after

the war ended, she took a doctor’s medical advice to rest in Europe — an experience that led her to establish the American Red Cross.

VOLUNTEERING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

When Clara visited Geneva, Switzerland, in 1869, she was approached by representatives of the International Red Cross, who asked her to establish a society in the U.S. because of her notable

humanitarian work. Founded by Henry Durant, the Red Cross was built on the idea of international agreements to protect the sick and wounded during wartime without respect to nationality, and to form national societies that would provide aid voluntarily on a neutral basis.

While Clara was in Europe, she was able to experience the mission firsthand during the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. As a volunteer for the International Red Cross, Clara helped distribute relief supplies to the war-torn city of Strasbourg and elsewhere in France. She also opened workrooms to help Strasbourg residents make sorely needed clothes and restore their livelihoods.

ESTABLISHING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS Inspired by her experiences in Europe, Barton corresponded with Red Cross officials in Switzerland after her return to the United States. In May 1881, after leading a multi-year effort to gather support in the U.S. and establish the organization, Clara

founded the American Red Cross. The next year in 1882, the U.S. government signed the Treaty of Geneva — international humanitarian laws that, to this day,



Conservator preparing the form for the dress. Photo features a crinoline worn under the dress to provide the distinctive hoop skirt popular in the mid-19th century. The reproduction crinoline is 120 inches around, the largest hoop worn during the period. Red Cross photo by Dennis Drenner



Bodice for the dress, featuring lace collar and brooch. The collar came with the dress but was too large for the period. The conservator cleaned the collar and altered the size to make it appropriate for the dress. The brooch is from the Mary Doering collection and correct for the period. The bodice was originally attached to the dress, but the conservator separated the pieces for display purposes. Red Cross photo by Dennis Drenner

protect the sick and wounded during wartime and form national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to deliver neutral aid voluntarily.

Several years later in 1900, the American Red Cross received its first congressional charter. The most recent version of the charter, adopted in May 2007, restates the purpose of the organization, which includes giving relief to and serving as a medium of communication between members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families, as well as

providing national and international disaster relief and mitigation.

JOIN US TO CONTINUE CLARA'S LEGACY Clara's vision of preventing and alleviating suffering continues today as ordinary people continue to advance her extraordinary legacy through the American Red Cross, touching millions of lives each year across the globe. [Learn more about Clara](#), including this [video](#) and [story map](#) of how she helped around the world.

New Course Empowers Bystanders to “Be the help until help arrives”

Marie Manning, APR

In an emergency, bystanders can be a critical lifeline until professionals arrive, yet nearly half of U.S. adults are unprepared to help in a medical crisis, according to a [recent survey](#) from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). However, four in five adults (81%) said they would be willing to help in an emergency if they took a training course.



Bystanders report more willingness to help in a medical crisis if they have training.

“This course is designed to offer bystanders basic information that gives them confidence to take immediate action when minutes matter,” said Dominick Tolli, senior vice president, Red Cross Training Services. “These five foundational skills, taken together, address the most pressing emergency needs someone is likely to be called upon for help.”

Given its ongoing commitment to providing lifesaving education, the American Red Cross and ACEP released a course this spring called “Until Help Arrives” designed to educate and empower bystanders to take action and provide lifesaving care if they are first on the scene during an emergency.

Training is strongly correlated to taking action. Nine in ten adults trained in any form of emergency response skill (91 percent) are willing to take action in an emergency, according to the ACEP survey.

The 90-minute online course covers five fundamental actions that can be taken during a life-threatening emergency that can help sustain or save a life until EMS arrives:

- Hands-only CPR (no breaths)
- Automated external defibrillator (AED) use
- Choking first aid
- Severe bleeding control, including use of a tourniquet
- Administering naloxone for an opioid overdose.



Online course from American Red Cross and American College of Emergency Physicians teaches what to do if first on the scene of an emergency.

“We are very proud to collaborate with the American Red Cross on this important program,” said Christopher S. Kang, MD, FACEP, president of ACEP. “With the right knowledge and training, anyone can initially respond to a medical emergency. This course can educate millions of potential lifesavers with vital, easy-to-remember training, empowering them to be the help until help arrives.” The course is available on [redcross.org/UntilHelpArrives](https://www.redcross.org/UntilHelpArrives). Because it is online only, it does

not meet OSHA requirements for First Aid/CPR/AED training with psychomotor skills practice. But for those who do not work in healthcare, this training could help them save a life.

Gifts By Beneficiary Designation

Candace Roosevelt, MAN, MBA

A beneficiary designation is one of the simplest ways to make a legacy gift to the American Red Cross. It can be as easy as filling out a form.

With a beneficiary designation you specify individuals or charitable organizations you want to receive your financial accounts—banking, investment, or retirement accounts, as well as life insurance policies or commercial annuity contracts—after you are gone. And if you already have an existing will or living trust, you will not need to change these documents.

A beneficiary designation can be quite flexible. You can name the American Red Cross as the sole beneficiary of your account or as one of several beneficiaries. Should your circumstances change in the future, you can modify your gift as need be or revoke it at any time. You remain in control of your accounts should you need them.

Bank Accounts You can instruct your bank to pay the American Red Cross all or a portion of what remains in a checking or savings account. Your bank can provide you with the appropriate forms.

Investment Accounts You can instruct your investment company to transfer to the American Red Cross some or all the investments remaining in your account at the end of your lifetime. Your broker or agent can help you with the process for doing this.

Retirement Accounts These include IRAs and most other “Qualified Retirement Plans.” Your plan administrator can provide a beneficiary designation form you can use to designate the American Red Cross to receive either a percentage of your retirement plan balance or of a specific dollar amount at the end of your lifetime.

Life Insurance You can designate the American Red Cross to receive all or a portion of the death benefit from your life insurance policy. Your agent can provide you with the appropriate form.

We suggest that you speak with your advisor to determine the most tax-efficient way to benefit individuals vs. charities through your estate plan.

For more information on any of the gift options mentioned, please contact Gift Planning Officer, *Candace Roosevelt at 617-306-3875 or candace.roosevelt@redcross.org*.

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



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!