

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our volunteer partners engaged and informed

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK, APRIL 15-21; SEE PHOTO COLLAGE ON PAGE 2



ON THE HORIZON

- **Sound the Alarm, Boise,** April 27-28.
- **World Red Cross Day,** May 8.
- **Sound the Alarm, Cascade,** May 12, creveling1@msn.com, 406-899-9234.
- **Sound the Alarm, Billings,** May 18-19.



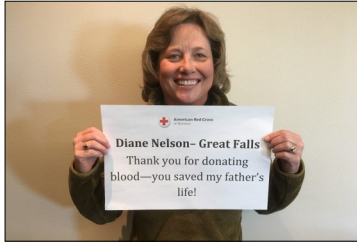
RED CROSS MILESTONES

- MICHAEL SCHNEIDER,** 10 years
- JEAN ZINDA,** 10 years
- KELI ANDERSON,** 5 years
- CAROL FONTAINE,** 5 years
- WAYNE KELLY,** 5 years
- SUSAN KIME,** 5 years
- SUSAN KLEEBURG,** 5 years
- JOHN SCHLICHEMAYER,** 5 years

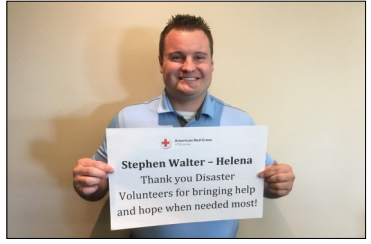
CAROL STABENBURROUGHS, 5 years



THE RED CROSS has 300,000 volunteers, which account for 90 percent of our workforce.



Montana Red Cross board members Diane Nelson and Stephen Walter thank our Idaho and Montana volunteers for making our communities safer, happier places to call home.



Thanks for all you do

On frigid winter mornings – if you get up early enough – you might see them loading their vans, preparing to drive hundreds of miles on snowy, icy roads to deliver lifesaving blood to a hospital halfway across the state. On sweltering summer nights – if you’re up late enough – you might find them saying goodbye to their blurry-eyed families as they prepare to open an emergency wildfire shelter at a school in Plains, Montana, or respond to an apartment fire in Pocatello, Idaho.

They’re blood couriers and disaster action team veterans, duty officers and disaster health services members – the amazing volunteers of the Red Cross of Greater Idaho and Montana – and we couldn’t fulfill our mission without them.

As we celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week, there’s no better time to take a deep breath and reflect on the countless sacrifices you, our volunteers, make to deliver vital services, not only to Idaho and Montana families, but also to those impacted by disasters well beyond our borders, in places like Sugarland, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

It’s a rare person who’s willing to leave behind the comforts of home to face the hardships of a disaster deployment, helping those they’ve never met and may never see again.

They sleep on cots in crowded gymnasiums, work 12-hour days and fight back tears as they talk with families who have lost everything. But most of all, they understand that when hospitals need blood or displaced families need aid, saying no really isn’t an option.

It’s a true testament to their character. As wildfires raged in all corners of Montana last summer, our volunteers barely had the



Nicole Sirak Irwin
Regional CEO,
Idaho & Montana



Diane Wright
Montana executive
director

chance to wash the smoke from their clothes before they were called away again to open another emergency shelter often in the darkness of night, 100 miles from home. On Labor Day weekend alone, Red Cross opened six wildfire shelters. It was a lot more labor than weekend for these dedicated individuals.

And their work doesn’t just stop when a shelter closes, a blood shipment gets delivered or a reconnection workshop winds down. They also put in plenty of hours in the classroom, staying up-to-date on their training and adding more skills to their toolbox.

For all of this and so much more, we can’t say thank you enough, not only to you, but also to your families who are left behind to pick up the slack, getting kids off to school on time, dinner on the table at night and making all this possible.

Though Volunteer Appreciation Week lasts only a few days, please realize how much we value what you do, every day, all year long. You are truly one-of-a-kind, and we are proud and thankful to have you on our team.

— Nicole Sirak Irwin and Diane Wright



Red Cross of Greater Idaho and Montana staffers Danielle Pozernick, Chris Volmer, Jacqueline Baldwin-LeClair, Abbra Firman, Jennifer Shurbet and Ann Callanan show their appreciation of our amazing volunteers by sending heart salutes their way.

In the know: Get gear at a discount

■ **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION:** To thank you for all you do, this month volunteers may use the discount code VOLUNTEER18 for 10 percent off at the Red Cross store, www.redcrossstore.org.

■ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** There’s still time to sign up to help

install smoke alarms in 500 Boise homes on April 27-28. Visit www.redcross.org/idaho. We also need volunteers to install alarms in Billings on May 18-19. Visit www.montanaredcross.org.

■ **COMMUNICATIONS:** The Montana Red Cross Facebook page

has 1,580 likes. The Idaho page has 1,340. Not bad, but imagine what our reach could be if all our Montana and Idaho volunteers liked our pages and invited their Facebook friends to like them, too. As you know, we do some pretty amazing work. If you get a moment, help us spread the word on social media.

FACES FROM THE FIELD

