

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our valued Red Cross volunteers engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

■ Duty Officer Informational Session, Oct. 17, 1-2 p.m., 5380 West Franklin Road, Boise. For those interested in becoming duty officer. RSVP at IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org or call 208-258-0592.

MEET A LEADER



SUSAN HAWTHORNE,
Disaster Action Team Supervisor, Helena

"I enjoy being the co-chair of the Lewis and Clark County team for several reasons. First, I understand how important everyone's time is so we try to have structured and meaningful meetings. I take my leadership experience from my military background and apply it to the chairperson's roles and responsibilities. Lead from the front is how I roll.

The No. 1 job is to make sure our clients are taken care of. I check in with the team to make sure we are continuing with our training requirements."

FUN FACT: "I love to make felt animals. It is a great stress release activity."



Using the T-shirts she and her mother received after donating blood to the Red Cross, Plentywood High School graduate Kamdyn Emblar created a patchwork quilt.

A rich tapestry of generosity

Plentywood woman creates quilt out of Red Cross shirts she and her mother collected for donating lifesaving blood

Over the last four years, recent Plentywood High School graduate Kamdyn Emblar has donated blood to the American Red Cross – and lots of it. Now she has the quilt to prove it.

As soon as she turned 16, Kamdyn joined her mother, Glenda Emblar, at a blood drive in Plentywood. Glenda has been a Red Cross blood donor for at least a decade, and after many donations, received a Red Cross T-shirt. When Kamdyn began regular donations, she also gathered shirts.

"We had a lot of T-shirts, nine or 10 combined," she said. "So I made my own pattern for a quilt."

Kamdyn set out to make a patchwork T-shirt quilt as a reminder of her volunteer efforts and the constant need for blood.

"I don't feel like I'm doing that much," she

said. "It is only a 30-minute process that helps so many people."

Kamdyn said the quilt tells quite the story of community giving, and she recently loaned it to her grandmother in Helena for show-and-tell sessions. When she earns enough T-shirts for a second quilt, Kamdyn intends to make one that her grandmother can keep, representing her whole family's commitment to helping others.

"I thought (donating blood) was a great thing, but I was so nervous at first, but being afraid was for nothing," Emblar said of her fear of needles. "It is easy and provides a bigger result than most people think."

Kamdyn's 19-year-old brother is also a regular donor, and her sister will join the family tradition when she turns 16. Her father intends to donate too when his schedule aligns with donation opportunities.

Kamdyn is now a freshman nursing student at Minot State University and said becoming a nursing major was always a goal.

"Just as I've always wanted to donate, I've always known I wanted to have an occupation in the medical field," she said.

SEE QUILT, PAGE 2

Unearthing family's Red Cross legacy

Late last year when Sayoko Kuwahara casually mentioned to her father she was considering joining the American Red Cross, she had no idea she was about to unearth a significant piece of her family's history she knew nothing about.

Sayoko is relatively new to Boise — having moved there during the summer of 2018 — and was looking for a service organization to join. In December, she met Roy Eiguren, the chair of the Red Cross of Greater Idaho board of directors, who encouraged her to consider serving on the Red

Cross board. A short while later, Sayoko called her father, Takemichi Kuwahara, in Osaka, Japan, and told him she was thinking of getting involved with the humanitarian organization.

From there the family story began to unfold.

"That's when he said, 'Hold on a sec, you need to learn more about the family's involvement with the Red Cross,'" she said.

The 96-year-old brought out a stack of

SEE FAMILY, PAGE 2



New Red Cross of Idaho board member Sayoko Kuwahara



MILESTONES

MILON

McDANIEL,
15 years

PAT WALLER,

15 years

BERNIE

CHILDERS,
10 years

SUSAN

MATTOCKS,
10 years

VICKI RUBY,

10 years

BARBARA

WOOLEY,
10 years

GARY HILL,

5 years



4,279

Hours logged in
August by our
volunteers.

13

Volunteers joined
in August.



21

Disaster
responses
in August.

Partners in preparedness



RED CROSS PHOTO/BARBARA WEBER

Earlier this month, AT&T teams in Boise helped the Red Cross assemble more than 3,000 comfort kits, which can be given to families impacted by disaster. Also that day, AT&T presented the Red Cross with a \$10,000 check to support efforts to keep families safe from home fires.

Teach youth about rules of war

The Red Cross of Idaho and Montana is looking for a youth action campaign coordinator to teach young adults, ages 13 to 24, about International Humanitarian Law and the rules of war. This volunteer will start the conversation in communities about how International Humanitarian Law preserves humanity and protects civilians, prisoners of war and wounded soldiers.

We're looking for someone who has excel-

lent project management and communication skills, displays flexibility and initiative and is able to present politicized issues in compliance with the Red Cross's neutrality mandate.

Ideally, this volunteer would be located in either Helena or Missoula. Training will be provided.

If you or someone you know is interested, email IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org or call 406-493-8778.

Quilt: Plans to make another

CONTINUED FROM 1

Each of her Red Cross blood donations is entered into a database, and Kamdyn receives an e-mail telling her where her blood was used.

"I had one donation sent to Missoula," she said. "I was

super excited about that. And I'm looking forward to learning where my blood can be used in North Dakota."

She said she will continue promoting the importance of blood donation on social media and in person.

"I get excited to go donate

again and really encourage younger kids to go, too."

Every two seconds someone needs lifesaving blood. Find a blood drive near you or schedule an appointment today by visiting www.redcrossblood.org or calling 800-RED-CROSS.

— Story by Amy Joyner

Family: 'But I am not the beginning'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

recognition certificates issued by the Japanese Red Cross Society and the City of Osaka and began to tell his daughter of her family's long legacy with the organization — a history of more than 70 years of service involving her father, her mother and her grandfather.

"I was completely taken aback because I had no idea," she said.

The owner and CEO of a construction company when he was younger, Takemichi served as a Red Cross team leader in the Osaka area. He helped with rescue and rebuilding after major typhoons and after the Great Hanshin earthquake struck Japan in 1995. He also served as an advocate for the Red Cross and made frequent financial contributions to the organization over the course of several decades.

"His support began right about the time I was born in 1962," Sayoko said. "He made whatever contributions that were possible while he was building his business and raising four kids.

"Having experienced World War II and local natural disasters, he found the fundamental principles of the Red Cross

important to embrace."

In November of 2018, the Japanese Red Cross Society recognized Sayoko's father for 30 years of continuous service and contributions.

"But I am not the beginning," he told Sayoko.

Before her father, Sayoko's grandfather, Shigeomi, volunteered with the Red Cross shortly after World War II, and though he was not a wealthy man, gave his time and talent whenever he could.

"Essentially he saw the atrocities of the war and wanted to do something, and he saw the Red Cross mission to be in line with his beliefs," she said.

Sayoko was also surprised to learn that not only was her father active with the Red Cross, but her mother, Takae, was involved as well, contributing for 10 years until she developed health problems.

"I had no idea both of them were doing it," she said.

Shortly after Sayoko joined the Idaho Red Cross board this summer, her moth-

er passed away. Sayoko said she feels fortunate that before her mother's death she was able to tell her that she too would serve an organization that has

played such a large part in her family's story.

"To be able to tell both my mother and father that I was officially approved to be a board member before my mother's passing — I thank God for lining up all those parts," she said. "I could not have planned it so perfectly." Sayoko, who guides medical device manufacturers through Japanese regulatory processes, said by his very nature her

father is extremely humble, a big reason neither she nor her three siblings were aware of her family's Red Cross legacy.

"I scolded him for not telling us something as good as this," she laughed.

But now she's also a Red Crosser and ready to continue the tradition.

"My father is very pleased, and I'm sure my mother is too," she said. "I am so excited and feel nothing but honored to be on this board and be able to serve.

"I am committed to do my 30 years of service."

