

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our valued Red Cross volunteers engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

■ **Giving Tuesday**, Dec. 3, Give With Meaning at rdcrss.org/givewithmeaning

■ **Training Institute**, March 27-30, Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone. The Training Institute is an opportunity to come together, receive some training and get to know one another. Check back for sign-up information.



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Disaster responses in October.

MEET A LEADER



DONNA EUBANK, Lead Donor Ambassador, Helena

"I like working with people. This role is important so it can free up tasks from phlebotomists. It's good for the community to have someone there. You see the same donors and a donor even came in and asked why I wasn't there the last time!"

FUN FACT: "I have 13 grandchildren."



Dave Tish served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army for 25 years, spending time in Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. The Greenleaf, Idaho, man now volunteers with the Red Cross.

Volunteering is 'in my blood'

After 25 years in the Army, Idaho volunteer Dave Tish now dedicating time to help families of those who serve

For 25 years, Dave Tish served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army, leading religious services and lending an ear when his fellow soldiers needed someone to talk to. He served in Operation Desert Storm and also deployed to Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I never saw the enemy, per se, but I sure heard him," Tish said.

Now as a volunteer with the Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces program, the Greenleaf, Idaho, veteran continues to serve, offering kindness and compassion to service members and their families, this time from a much safer locale.

As part of its humanitarian mission, the American Red Cross relays urgent messages from home to active duty service members when there's a death or serious illness in the family or

during the birth of a child. A member of the client services team, Tish follows up with families to make sure those messages arrived and to see if they need any other resources or support. And his extensive military background helps him better understand what these families are going through.

"I tell people sometimes I can read between the lines," the retired lieutenant colonel said. "The computer tells me what happened but when you read between the lines you go 'oh man, they need another word.'"

Tish's Red Cross work can often be emotionally difficult, especially when a service member has committed suicide.

"I'm able to talk to the family or parents a little bit and say there's other resources available and point to them and that just gives them hope or a little more closure," he said.

"The more that we can help them in those moments and let them know they are not alone the better."

Tish's first Red Cross experience came when he was working at a furniture store in college. A fellow employee at the store needed blood, and

“The more that we can help them in those moments and let them know they are not alone the better.”

— Volunteer Dave Tish

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Questions or concerns? Send them our way

This month we debut a feature called You Want to Know, and we're asking for your input and feedback.

If there are Red Cross topics you are curious about or questions you might have, please click the link in the graphic at the right. All submissions through this link are anonymous.

Or if you would rather, you can email matthew.ochsner@redcross.org.

The Idaho and Montana team will answer those questions in upcoming editions of RED ALERTS.



YOU WANT TO KNOW

Send in a question at volunteerconnection.redcross.org

In January, we will also debut a quarterly video series from regional CEO Nicole Sirak Irwin and the leadership team in which we will answer questions and address topics you suggest. The first

video will cover territory realignment, so if there are things you would like to know, please send in questions.

Watch your in-box for more information about the upcoming video.

And now on to our first topic ... Our Volunteer Services team has been hearing questions about the volunteer satisfaction survey, especially some confusion around the question "How likely are you to recommend the American Red

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MILESTONES

BETTY MAYES,
10 years

KATHLEEN WEISS,
10 years

SHERIDAWN CARRUTHERS,
5 years

DANA DARKO,
5 years

JAMES DARKO,
5 years



43

Volunteers joined us in October.



SUPPORT AIR FORCE CLINIC

Montana Red Cross needs volunteers to support the 341st Medical Group at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls. Pharmacy, front desk and administrative roles are available. Ideal for veterans, service members or spouses. Visit IDMT.Recruting@redcross.org or call 406-493-8778.

Grangeville unites following fire

When a fire damaged an apartment complex in the small town of Grangeville in northcentral Idaho in October, Red Cross volunteers sprang into action, working closely with community partners to help meet residents' immediate needs and jump-start their road to recovery.

More than 20 residents were displaced by the fire, most of them elderly or disabled. Red Cross teams opened an emergency shelter, served warm meals, met with clients face to face, provided financial assistance and offered leadership as the community began to move forward. Most importantly, they worked closely with partners to make sure no one's needs were left unmet.

"We were just impressed, beyond words, about how the community came together to take care of their own," Red Cross Disaster Action Team volunteer Randy Clark said. "Not only with the initial response but to work through the process of getting everybody situated back into



The Red Cross volunteers who responded following the apartment fire in Grangeville included, from left, Randy Clark, Marty Heisig, Brittany Comon and Don Nesbitt.

permanent housing so they could get well on the road to recovery."

Clark said one community organizer was so pleased with the collaboration that took place, she and her husband signed up to become Red Cross volunteers.

"Is that not good or what?" Clark said.

Writing team volunteer recognized

Red Cross writing volunteer Amy Joyner of Kalispell has been named the Communications Team Volunteer of the Quarter.

Joyner has written several Red Cross stories since she joined the team, including a profile on 90-year-old transportation specialist and Service to the Armed Force volunteer Vic Paul of Boise and a feature on a Montana woman who turned the T-shirts she and her mother received for donating blood into a quilt. She also wrote a story about Pillowcase Project and Pint-Size

Hero presentations in Kalispell-area classrooms.

"Amy is a talented writer and interviewer who is helping us tell more stories about the amazing work our volunteers and supporters are doing," said Matt Ochsner, Red Cross communications director for Idaho and Montana. "We are thrilled Amy is donating her time and talent to our writing team."



Idaho volunteer wins Red Cross coat

Idaho County Disaster Action Team Supervisor and communications team volunteer Denise Bacon will receive a Red Cross jacket of her choosing as the winner of the Friends and Referral Program drawing.

The program encourages volunteers to recommend someone they know to become a Red Cross volunteer.

Denise made two referrals last quarter.

In order to recommend someone, volunteers

should log into Volunteer Connection, hover over the MY NHQ tab and click on Friends and Family Referrals. They can also click [here](#).

For every referral you submit, your name is entered into a quarterly drawing to win a Red Cross jacket. Call 406-493-8778 with questions.



Questions: You Want to Know debuts

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Cross to a friend or colleague as an organization where they can volunteer?"

Answer: First, we would like to thank everyone who has completed the survey and emphasize it's important that you take the time to fill it out when it arrives in your in-box. Every volunteer should receive the survey once a year, near the

time of your Red Cross anniversary date.

It's important because we value your Red Cross experience, and this feedback helps guide us as we work to make this a better place to volunteer.

There has been some confusion around the "how likely are you to recommend Red Cross to a friend ..." question. This is simply a way of gaug-

ing if you're having a positive volunteer experience. It is not asking if you have someone in particular that you would recommend to become a Red Cross volunteer.

Please send in more topics you would like to hear about by clicking this link: volunteerconnection.redcross.org.

And check back next month as we answer more of your questions.

Veteran: Tish says it's his turn to give back

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Tish was "encouraged" to do his part.

"One of the other delivery guys was about six or eight inches taller than me and about 50 pounds heavier and says 'We're going to go donate blood.' And I said 'Yes sir, we are.' And I've been doing it ever since.

"I'm now working on my 50-gallon pin."

Eventually Tish transitioned from simply donating blood to also helping deliver it as a Red Cross transportation specialist, helping drive lifesaving blood collected at drives back to the lab in Boise for testing and distribution.

He also volunteers at the Caldwell veterans' hall, with several veterans' organizations and through his church.

"It's in my blood," Tish said of his volunteerism.

Tish said he often saw a Red Cross presence during his military deployments, whether it was through their emergency communications or when they offered a safe place to grab a cup of coffee and make a much-needed phone call back home.

Now it's his turn.

"You come out of a military career, and the Red Cross has taken care of us so I want to give it back," he said.

"They told me you can't sit back and

do nothing when you retire so I'm making sure I don't do that."

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS: Last year, the Red Cross of Greater Idaho and Montana provided 1,098 emergency communications to military families. Red Cross also provides transportation and financial assistance to service members when needed.

The Red Cross Hero Care Center is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Emergency communication requests can be submitted online at get-help/military-families/emergency-communication or by calling 877-272-7337.

Faces from the field



Ravalli County volunteer Dallas Erickson donates blood during a blood drive in honor of his wife and fellow Red Cross volunteer Jenny, below left, in Stevensville. Jenny recently was diagnosed with lymphoma. Nineteen units were collected.



Fourth- and fifth-graders at Alturas Academy in Idaho Falls raised more than \$4,100 for Hurricane Dorian relief by organizing a school carnival.



Idaho Red Cross Board Chairman Roy Eiguren, third from left, and regional CEO Nicole Sirak Irwin meet with Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo, left, in Washington, D.C. RIGHT: Ty Williams, Mary Kress and Autumn Gibson attend a Veteran's Day Parade in Lewiston.



Kathy Franck, Beverly Beem, Sandy Harnar and Yeong Beem, front row, and Ed Amstutz, Trevor Blincoe, Amber Blincoe, Diana Ochsner, Ashley Freeman, Jim Brown, Tim Dye and Chad Hafer attend logistics training. LEFT: Service to the Armed Forces provides Montana National Guard deployment support.