

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

■ November, [Native American Heritage month](#)

■ Nov. 6, Daylight Saving Time ends. Remember to test your smoke alarms as you turn back your clocks.

■ Nov. 8, Election Day.

■ Nov. 11, Veterans Day

■ Nov. 13, [World Kindness Day](#).

■ Nov. 20, [World Children's Day](#).

■ Nov. 24, Thanksgiving

■ Nov. 25, [Native American Heritage Day](#)

■ Nov. 29, Giving Tuesday. Learn how you can make a difference [here](#).



17

Disaster responses in July.

Clients helped: **53**



MILESTONES

November

MELINDA SHERRIEB, 20 years

LAURIE HAMILTON, 10 years

DIANA OCHSNER, 10 years

JAMES SCHOMER, 10 years

TO DONATE BLOOD

Visit online

[Red-CrossBlood.org](#)

'It saved me'



Shortly after giving birth to her son, Shandra Sterner began bleeding uncontrollably. Over the next several days, she would need 88 units of blood flown in from across Idaho.

Mom needs 88 units of blood

On average, people have about 10 pints of blood in their bodies. By the time her ordeal was through, Shandra

Sterner would need nearly nine times that amount through countless transfusions to save her life.

Shandra, who lives in Twin Falls, had just given birth to her son Kyler through C-section and all was well. But within minutes, things took a terrifying turn. Shandra began to bleed uncontrollably, and her husband and newborn were rushed from the room.

"I was losing so much blood," the mother of four said. "I remember I just kept asking the anesthesiologist to save me. I thought I was going to die."

Over the next four days, Shandra would

undergo seven surgeries as her medical team worked to locate the source of the bleeding. One surgery alone lasted 10 hours. During her

seventh and final surgery, her husband and parents had to make the extremely difficult decision to sign the do-not-resuscitate order.

"They let everybody in to say their goodbyes," she said. "They didn't think I was going to make it."

But during that critical surgery, her medical team was finally able to find the tear and stop the bleeding.

"When they brought me back you could tell the excitement on those doctors'

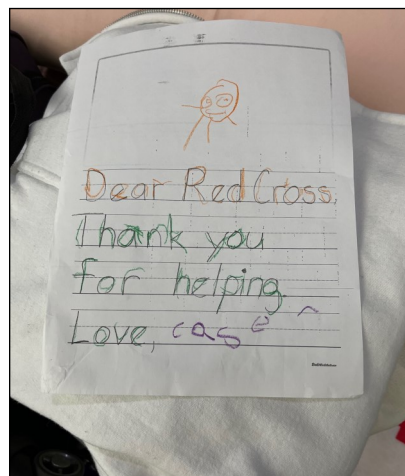
faces that they found the bleed and saved my life," she said.

“ They let everybody in to say their goodbyes. They didn't think I was going to make it.

Mom Shandra Sterner

SAVED, PAGE 3

Area volunteers help those impacted by Ian



Since Hurricane Ian made landfall in late September, a steady stream of compassionate volunteers from the Red Cross of Idaho, Montana and East Oregon have traveled across the country to deliver comfort and care to those who have lost everything. More than 30 volunteers and staff from our region have gone out the door, with others helping virtually. Here are a few of their stories from the field.

JACKI KAELEN WILLIAMS, KAMIAH, IDAHO

Jacki, who is assisting with logistics and transportation, returned after a marathon day to find a thank-you note waiting for her.

After losing her home to wildfire in 2015, she has very real understanding of what these families are going through.

"This picture (at left) tells it all," she writes from Florida. "I came back after a 14-hour day, and this



Jacki

SEE IAN, PAGE 2

Harness your social media skills

Join our social media team to amplify the Red Cross message to our communities.

Also, a special grand opening is scheduled in Bozeman soon, and new people are coming on board and getting promotions. Read on.

POSITION OF THE MONTH

Across the U.S., the Red Cross responds to more than 60,000 disasters annually and we supply 40 percent of the nation’s blood supply. We need folks to help us communicate news of our good work across all social media platforms.

Title: Communication/Social Media Volunteer.

Locations: Virtual.

Job Description: Red Cross digital volunteers use their social media skill set to help maintain and amplify the Red Cross message on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Digital volunteers may be trained to help with tasks like social care, social monitoring and content creation, and they may be asked to post from regional social media accounts.

Are you or someone you know a great fit? Email our team at IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org for more information.

NEW FACILITY OPENING

In November, Red Cross is planning to move into a new Blood Donor Center in Bozeman. This expanded facility is located at 221 E. Oak St. and will have room for two additional donor beds, humanitarian services space and a fresh new design.

NEW MANAGER HIRED

We are excited to announce that Eric Allen is our new disaster program manager for Eastern Montana. Eric comes with a wealth of experience in both disaster response and volunteer management. He recently moved to Montana to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Red Lodge.

Most recently, Eric worked with the



Eric Allen

IN THE KNOW



RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS

Red Lodge Community Foundation and was a crucial partner with the Red Cross as we responded to the June flooding.

A New England native, Eric graduated from Manchester Community College in Connecticut in communications. He then joined the AmeriCorps Civilian Community Corps and Red Cross supporting wildfire and hurricane response and FEMA for vaccine delivery.

Eric spent 2021-2022 supporting workforce housing at the Red Lodge Community Foundation. He developed a county-wide housing needs and strategic planning assessment and coordinated volunteers and grant writing for the mutual self-help homeownership program with Helena-area Habitat for Humanity.

He was recently the disaster recovery program coordinator with the Red Lodge Community Foundation, where he supervised four disaster case managers, resource management, volunteer coordination and donations management.

In his free time, Eric enjoys backpacking or cross-country skiing in the Absaroka-Beartooth range or reading a sci-fi novel.

BIG PROMOTION

Congrats to Lori Fons, who has started a new position with the American Red Cross Corporate In Kind Team as the corporate program manager for in-kind donations in response to disasters.

Lori was previously the regional philanthropy officer for our region.

“Lori has been instrumental in rocketing our fundraising program into success, and it is all thanks to her tenacity and willingness to make our Red Cross region great,” Chief Development Officer Bryce Sitter writes.

Lori continues to make Belgrade,

Mont., her home.

To fill the large hole left by Lori’s promotion, our region is currently seeking a regional philanthropy officer to identify, engage and steward current and prospective donors to support our work.

This is a full-time position with great



benefits. Would you or someone you know be a great fit?

Learn more [here](#).

COOKING WITH NATE

Ketchup With Friends will be replaced in November by Season 2 of Cooking with Nate!

If you have recipes that they would like to add to our Red Cross Recipe Book, please send them to IDMT.Vol@redcross.org.

Dates and times haven’t been set yet for our online gathering, but we will notify you soon. Keep an eye on your email.

SATISFACTION SURVEY

The American Red Cross distributes the annual Volunteer Satisfaction Survey to all active volunteers during the fiscal year quarter of their anniversary date of when they started their service.

This survey helps us learn more about the experience our volunteers are having. It’s distributed via email with the subject line “We need your feedback!” and remains available for the remainder of the fiscal year.

It’s important that volunteers participate because it helps us better understand what we are doing well and where to invest more time and energy to improve the volunteer experience.

Ian: Giving back across the country

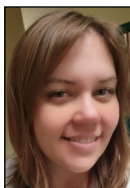
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thank-you note was on my pillow. I have first-hand experience losing everything you own. A forest fire took our home, and that was very humbling. I cherish my family. They are what is important in this life. I learned the hard way, and it reminds me that when a disaster strikes, we are all one. I’m grateful to be able to contribute my knowledge to a great cause.”

CASSANDRA LOVELESS, KALISPELL, MONT.

On her first Red Cross deployment, Cassandra helped out at the Legends Center evacuation shelter in Jacksonvillle, where she set up cots, registered clients and coordinated medical equipment that was coming in.

“I’m 37 years old and I’m single, and I



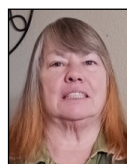
Cassandra

don’t have any kids. I could spend the rest of my life sitting and watching TV, but I don’t want to do that. One of the biggest things we can do with our lives is to be of service to others, and it’s just a matter of finding which service fits you.”

JOANNA THOMPSON, KUNA, IDAHO

Joanna is assisting with damage assessment to make sure people are getting what they need. Her deployment has been anything but easy, she said, but she’s energized knowing she’s helping people during their darkest hours.

“My family has been fortunate to have never experienced disasters first-hand, so I believe we should be willing to stand up and help when we can. I think it is important for my



JoAnna

children and grandchildren to see me do the work and hopefully they will follow my example.

“It is valuable to get out of my comfort zone and put in the effort to make a difference. I have gained new friends, gone to places I probably would never have seen. Tonight I am exhausted, and it isn’t even 8 p.m. yet. But it is a good feeling. I think everyone should take the time to give to others, if anything, it makes you appreciate what you have a little more.”

ESTHER MOODY, EUREKA, MONT.

On the ground delivering emergency supplies to those in need, Esther draws motivation from her family.

“My grandma taught us to help, and my family has always been there for people.”



Esther

Red Cross team visits colony



What fun

In early October, our team visited the Fairhaven Hutterite Colony in Cascade County to teach children how to be prepared in case of emergency through our Pillowcase and Prepare with Pedro programs. We got to meet 38 kids and had a fantastic day.



Saved: Family helps recruit donors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Shandra's talented medical team weren't the only ones who played a key role in her survival. Generous blood donors also gave her a lifeline. Throughout her hospital stay, Shandra received an astounding 11 gallons of blood, blood flown in from places like Boise, Pocatello and Idaho Falls.

"I can't thank them enough," Shandra said of those blood donors. "I never knew how blood donation could change your life in a split second, but ultimately it did, and it saved me."

Shandra is back home now and on the mend.

Doctors are hoping she will be fully recovered by Thanksgiving. Three-week-old Kyler is doing well, too.

"He's a little chunker," Shandra said. "He definitely loves his food."

To thank donors and pay it forward, Shandra and her family organized a blood drive in Twin Falls in October that brought in 60 units and many first-time donors. Several of Shandra's doctors and nurses came out to support her.

And while she can't donate yet as she continues to recover, Shandra plans to roll up her sleeve and help give that gift of life to someone else.



Shandra Sterner, left, organized a Red Cross blood drive with her family. She is seen here with one of her nurses, Stacy Greaves, who came out to donate. The drive collected about 60 units of lifesaving blood.

"Once I'm able to donate I'm definitely going to," she said.

To help those like Shandra and donate lifesaving blood, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter your zip code to find a drive near you and schedule an appointment. Or call 800-RED-CROSS.

A blood donation takes less than an hour from start to finish and can potentially save up to three lives.

"Through everything my entire army came together and stayed strong and fought for me when I couldn't fight for myself," Shandra wrote. "It was truly a miracle."