



## Latest from Youth Leaders



### **National Youth Involvement Month Recap!**

We hope you are excited about the holidays this season, as it's a time for giving! First, we want to celebrate a successful NYIM this year!

Thank you, everyone, for your hard work and participation in this National Youth Involvement Month! Below are some highlights of youth-led engagement across the country. We hope it was a time to celebrate youth involvement and learn more ways to

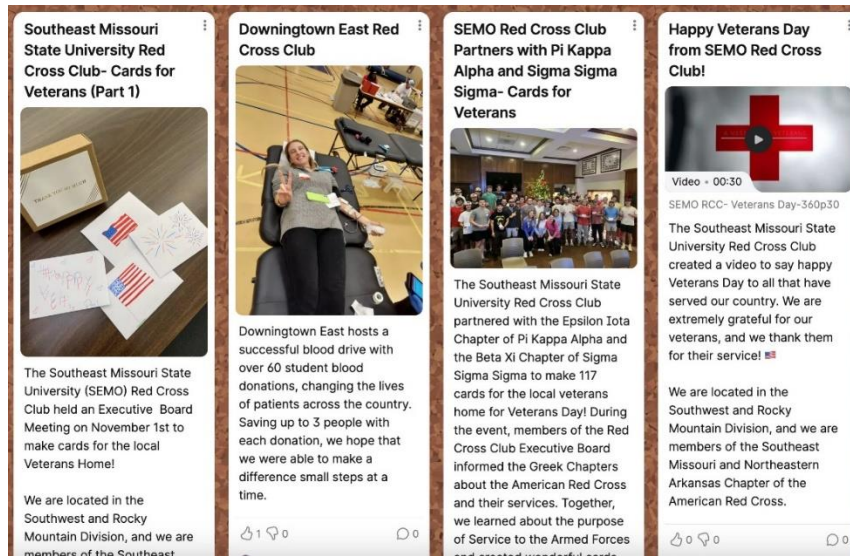
## Youth/Young Adult Spotlight: Ishani Gandhi



*Ishani Gandhi, high school volunteer*

Ishani embarked on her journey with the Red Cross during her freshman year of high school when she joined the Red Cross Club. As a member, she swiftly

get involved. Be sure to show off any activities or projects your clubs and regions were engaged in on our [kudos board](#).



As the end of the year is approaching, it's a great time to reflect on your involvement thus far and think about how to continue engaging with the Red Cross mission to finish the year strong. We encourage you to continue to seek volunteer opportunities within your region!

The National Youth Council wishes you a happy holiday season and New Year! See you in 2024!

## Stories to Share

[Emerging trends in volunteering](#) indicate people want to support humanitarian organizations in new and innovative ways. In keeping with those trends, Spirit of Volunteerism seeks to energize employees and volunteers to harness the power of

rose through the ranks, becoming a regional youth volunteer entrusted with Social Media Ambassador and Youth Blogger roles. Motivated by her experiences in the club's events, Ishani sought to expand her contributions, leading to her role as a Youth Placement Specialist. In this capacity, she interviewed incoming volunteers and skillfully assigned them to their respective positions.

Her dedication extended beyond administrative tasks, as Ishani took charge as a team lead for two significant fundraisers: Screenings Save Lives and Vaccinate a Village. She successfully raised over \$1,400 through these initiatives, contributing to health screening and vaccination accessibility worldwide. Her commitment to making a difference in global health concerns remains unwavering, as she envisions continuing her fundraising efforts through upcoming events and initiatives.

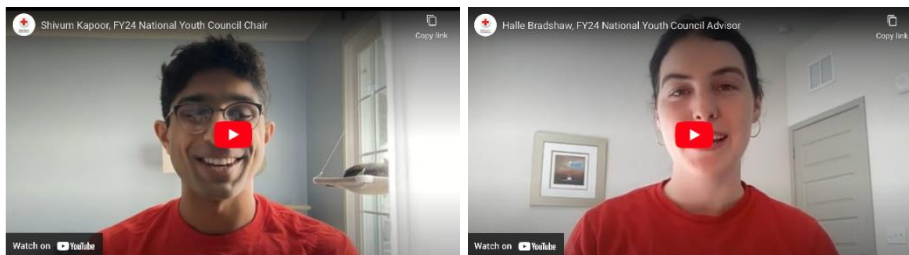
Presently, Ishani holds the position of Workforce Engagement Coordinator for the Red Cross North Texas Region. In this role, she leads a team which helps ensure the seamless onboarding of incoming volunteers. Simultaneously, she takes on the responsibility of Event Lead for her IHL Team this year, showcasing her multifaceted commitment to humanitarian causes.

*Do you know of a volunteer who has gone above and beyond to make a memorable impact in their community? The Youth Spotlight is a fantastic opportunity for you to nominate outstanding volunteers. These spotlighted volunteers will receive national*

volunteers. Read their stories here: [Empowering Youth Volunteers to Assist in Mission Delivery \(Nov. 2023\)](#).

As we celebrate National Youth Involvement Month in November, National Youth Council members share their experience working together with the Alabama & Mississippi Region to start a county-based Red Cross Club in partnership with Community Adaptation.

Below you can listen to Shivum Kapoor, National Youth Council Chair, and Halle Bradshaw, National Youth Council Advisor, share their experience during the launch of the inaugural Montgomery County Red Cross Club. Visit our [landing page](#) to learn more about how the National Youth Council supports the launch of new Red Cross Clubs.



## Holidays for Heroes

As we celebrated Veterans Day on November 11, it's your time to give back to those who served our country! Get involved with the [Holidays for Heroes](#) program! This amazing volunteer opportunity includes a variety of activities that recognize and thank local veterans and military communities.

Working with your region, you can translate your appreciation in various ways, including making holiday cards, notes, and banners, or gathering small donations. The Red Cross does not have a national Holiday Mail for Heroes PO Box to which cards are sent, so this activity is great to work with your local Red Cross unit.

recognition for their hard work! Nominate a youth volunteer who you think deserves this opportunity [here](#).

## December Monthly Focus: National Human Rights Month



December is National Human Rights Month! This month, take the time to consider how human rights may be oppressed for individuals around the world. A key component of the Red Cross' mission is to stand against violations based on individual factors and aim to ensure that all have access to basic rights. Engage with some of these great resources to learn more and spread awareness:

- Learn how to become involved with the **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)** program [here](#) You can take free professional training courses that are listed or learn more about the IHL Youth Action Campaign.

Once again, click [here](#) to donate now and learn more information!

## Expand Your Knowledge



In honor of International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December, you can continue to support the Red Cross' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion mission and explore the [Cultural Competency Series: The Importance of Disability Identity in Disaster Response](#).

## What is YouthWire?

Created by your National Youth Council, YouthWire is a monthly e-newsletter containing important Red Cross youth volunteer opportunities, stories, and resources for youth, young adults, and youth champions! We always want to highlight great stories and hear what awesome things are happening in your region!

### Let us know what's new for you!

Questions about youth volunteering with the American Red Cross? Email [YouthInvolvement@redcross.org](mailto:YouthInvolvement@redcross.org).

- Engage with Learning 2 Action EDGE videos (log into your Volunteer Connection account before accessing the following): [Uncovering Unconscious Bias](#) or [Anti-Racism Action: Changing Systems with Candor, Compassion, and Courage](#).

[Register](#) for the CSS Zoom Event: Cultural Inclusivity and the Holidays on December 21 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET.

Visit our monthly Celebrate and Engage page [here](#) to learn more ways to learn about the history, current movement activities and the different ways to support individuals fighting for this initiative.

## December Fundraising Highlights: Holiday Giving Campaign



## Get Social and Share!

Share YouthWire with your peers and invite them to [subscribe](#).

## Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!

The time you spend volunteering is critical to the American Red Cross. It is important that volunteer hours are submitted through Volunteer Connection so that they can be tracked as part of the overall mission.

Help us tell the story of youth & young adults' incredible impact by logging your hours and filling out the [spotlight form](#) today. Use these helpful [guides and video tutorials](#) to aid you in the process of logging volunteer hours on [Volunteer Connection](#) (desktop version and mobile app version)!



If you no longer want to receive YouthWire, please click here to [unsubscribe](#).

It is the holiday season, and giving hope is a focus this month with the Holiday Giving Campaign. You can help people through life's most challenging moments this holiday season. Join our gaming event through January 7 to provide help and hope to communities in need. In addition to making a lifesaving difference, you can earn custom Hope for Holidays merchandise, including our 2023 Ugly Sweater. [Join today!](#) Make sure to share this opportunity with friends and family.

To stay connected, follow @RedCrossGaming on Twitter and join the Discord at American Red Cross.

## Volunteer Connection Spanish COMING SOON!

In late January 2024, Volunteer Connection (VCN) will offer a Spanish language experience for new volunteer applicants. This multi-year project will roll out Spanish language content in several phases, with the initial launch including the volunteer application, intake and screening. The investment to translate VCN supports our commitment to [DEI](#) and ability to adapt to changing volunteer demographics and trends.

To learn more, visit the [VCN Spanish Toolkit](#) and subscribe to receive notifications for newly added content.