

# YOUTHWIRE

— Impact Starts Here —



American  
Red Cross

Youth & Young Adults

WITH ALL OUR HEART

FEBRUARY 2024

## Latest from Youth Leaders



Embrace diversity, equity and inclusion this February with the Red Cross! At the heart of our mission, DEI is seamlessly woven into every aspect of our service lines. This month provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and reaffirm our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment.

Take the lead in championing diversity by participating in the Youth Diversity Pledge. This initiative empowers volunteers to become advocates and leaders within the American Red Cross. Through education on diversity and inclusion within our

## Youth Spotlight: Aashirya Murugan



*Aashirya, a high school student and volunteer*

Aashirya embarked on her journey with the Red Cross during her freshman year of high school. Aashirya grew up hearing stories of the American Red Cross through her father, who would donate blood yearly, about the

organization, you can initiate meaningful discussions about individual uniqueness and the diverse challenges we face.

The 2024-2026 HBCU Ambassador program is accepting applications until February 29, 2024. Through the HBCU ambassador program, you can help to inspire a new generation of Red Cross volunteers and leaders, promote diversity of Red Cross Blood Services regions' donor recruitment, and improve health outcomes of diverse populations in need of blood transfusions. [Learn more about the HBCU Ambassador program including application instructions here.](#)

As we approach Red Cross Month in March, the National Youth Council is offering various live events throughout March to involve youth and young adult volunteers within our variety of service opportunities. Originally created in 1943, [Red Cross Month](#) is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of youth volunteerism and reflect upon our organization's mission. Stay tuned for more information on how to join these sessions and gain access to unique volunteer experiences that will empower you to make a meaningful difference in your community and beyond!

Your active participation will help us build a more inclusive and supportive community within the Red Cross. Let's work together to make a positive impact!

mission of this organization and its dedication to serving humanity.

Aashirya has conducted emergency drills at her elementary school to train K-5 students in emergency preparedness with events such as fires and earthquakes. As a sophomore and junior, she was selected to become the Spirit and Publicity Coordinator and Committee Member for her region, East Bay Youth Executive Board, being a founding member of the Barton Tribune, a platform to make the newsletter more accessible to volunteers for regional updates.

She currently serves as the International Services Coordinator for the East Bay Youth Executive Board, where she leads a team which helps educate the public on International Humanitarian Law, policy and health. Aashirya thanks the Red Cross for changing her life and opening so many opportunities and paths for her.

*Do you know of a volunteer who has gone above and beyond to make a memorable impact in their community? Youth Spotlight is a fantastic opportunity for*

## February Facebook Challenge Series



Delve into the February Facebook Challenge Series—an exciting opportunity to collaborate with a dedicated community of Red Cross supporters committed to providing help and hope to those in need. This virtual event, hosted on Facebook, serves as a platform for people to come together, interact, create fundraisers, pursue their fitness goals, and receive Red Cross merchandise as a token of appreciation for their support.

To join the challenge:

- 1 Join the group: Connect with fellow participants, share photos, and provide encouragement in our Challenge Group!
- 2 Track your progress: Monitor your daily achievements using our free printable calendar or your preferred mobile app.
- 3 Launch a fundraiser: Initiate a fundraiser while conquering this physical challenge. Share it on Facebook to contribute to global disaster relief efforts.

*you to nominate outstanding volunteers to receive national recognition for their hard work! Nominate a youth volunteer who deserves this opportunity [here](#).*

## Celebrate Lunar New Year



Lunar New Year is a time to gather with loved ones, honor ancestors, exchange gifts, feast, and of course, wish for abundance, prosperity, longevity, and happiness in the coming year. Lunar New Year is celebrated by millions of people around the world, including China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, and more!

This Lunar New Year begins February 10 as we welcome the year of the dragon! The dragon represents good luck, justice, wisdom and strength. Learn more about Lunar New Year on [OneSource](#).

*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.*

For more information on how to take part in this exhilarating opportunity, click [here](#).

## Expand Your Knowledge



In honor of American Heart Month this February, you can sign up for various Red Cross courses, including Basic Life Support and First Aid/AED. Engaging in these courses allows you to gain knowledge in handling such situations and develop the problem-solving skills needed to help those around you. Check out [this](#) page to learn about the variety of classes and training you can participate in.

## February Monthly Focus: Black History Month



Celebrate Black History Month with the Red Cross as we honor the rich tapestry of African American contributions that have shaped our nation. This February, the Red Cross pays tribute to the resilience, achievements, and cultural impact of Black individuals throughout history. Join us in recognizing the trailblazers who have left an indelible mark on society and continue to inspire positive change. Let us unite in fostering understanding, equality, and inclusivity, embodying the spirit of compassion that defines the Red Cross. Together, we honor the past, celebrate the present, and build a future where diversity is embraced and celebrated. The American Red Cross has planned many events to celebrate Black History Month, check out [this One Source page for more details](#).

## 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).

## Get Social and Share!

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

## Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!

*Make it count!*

Remember to log your hours



Help us tell the story of youth & young adults' incredible impact by submitting a [spotlight form](#) today. Need Volunteer Connection support? Check out these helpful [guides and video tutorials!](#)



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

## February Highlight: Navin Narayan Scholarship



As we enter February, the application for the Navin Narayan Scholarship will soon open! Both a Rhodes Scholar and a Harvard graduate, Navin Narayan was a high-achieving student as well as a compassionate, dedicated and innovative American Red Cross volunteer. Tragically, Navin succumbed to cancer at 23.

For the past 21 years, the National Youth Council has continued his legacy of volunteerism and academic excellence by awarding the Navin Narayan Scholarship to a high school senior who embodies his principles. This scholarship is a one-time award of \$1,000 paid directly to one recipient upon proof of matriculation. Visit [this page](#) to learn more about the scholarship and the eligibility requirements.