

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our volunteer partners engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

- Election Day, Nov. 6.
- Veterans Day, Nov. 11.
- Thanksgiving, Nov. 22.



26

Disaster responses in September. Families helped: 47.



40

Volunteers joined us in September.



3,345

Hours logged in September by our volunteers.



Our region has deployed more than 50 members in response to Florence and Michael.



MILESTONES

CHARLIE HASH,
10 years

BRENDA BURRIS
5 years

PAT YANEY,
5 years

FROM THE FIELD: STORIES AND PHOTOS OF THOSE WHO DEPLOYED



Nampa nurse Jody Goodman spent a lot of time around children during his Hurricane Florence deployment. “I would be walking around and feel this little hand reach down and grab my hand, and all of a sudden I had this little shadow that was following me.”

Whatever it took

Act of kindness, ‘little shadow’ energize volunteer

Surrounded by the devastation left behind by Hurricane Florence, it was a single act of kindness that brought Idaho Red Cross volunteer Jody Goodman to tears.

Goodman was working in a Red Cross shelter at a middle school in North Carolina when a young man staying there quietly put someone else’s needs ahead of his own. Someone that man didn’t even know.

“One of the ladies needed her feet elevated,” said Goodman, a registered nurse at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Nampa. “She had heart issues and so he walks up and he grabs his own pillow off his own bed, lifted her feet up, put it under her feet,

and he said ‘Now you leave this under your feet. We have to take care of each other.’”

This was Goodman’s first Red Cross deployment, and was a bit of a whirlwind at that. He is a member of the Medical Reserve Corps, a national network of volunteers organized to improve the health and safety of their communities. On a Thursday morning, reserve corps members got an email saying that the Red Cross needed nurses willing to deploy to Hurricane Florence. Goodman responded quickly, and within an hour, got a call back laying out what he needed to do next. By the following Tuesday he was on a plane bound for

SEE GOODMAN, PAGE 2



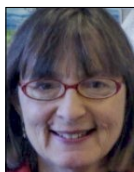
Idaho volunteer Jim Findley, of Boise, meets with Red Cross CEO Gail McGovern during his deployment to Florida. Findley also got to meet Florida Gov. Rick Scott, and with North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper during his Florence deployment.

Two honored for outstanding work

The Volunteer Services team is thrilled to announce that **Sandy Tippers** of Boise is the Volunteer Services’ Volunteer of the Quarter for July-September.

Tippers has been with the Red Cross since 2011. A disaster action team member, she recently joined the regional intake team, where she has done amazing work screening new volunteers.

She also stepped up dur-



Tippers



Ochsner

ing Hurricane Florence as a member of the Hot Shot team that supports the intake of volunteers in the disaster area.

The communications team named **Diana Ochsner**, of Jerome, as its Volunteer of the Quarter.

Whether she was driving an emergency response vehicle across the country or helping manage a warehouse, Ochsner repeatedly made time to accommodate media requests and share her story during her Hurricane Florence deployment.

We congratulate both of these amazing volunteers.

‘Getting stuff to people who need it’

Montana volunteer delivers relief, one forklift full at a time

In an old warehouse transformed into a hub for American Red Cross supplies, Paul Hicks of Helena drove a forklift as his contribution to North Carolina’s recovery from Hurricane Florence.

He doesn’t see the people he’s helping in Fayetteville and beyond, but he knows he’s an important step in the complex process of donations with the people who desperately need supplies.

A disaster action team member, he’s among more than 50 Idaho and Montana Red Cross volunteers and staffers to deploy following hurricanes Florence and Michael.

Donations and Red Cross stocks come by the 50-foot trailer, and Hicks and his fellow forklift operators meet the semi-truck to unload and sort supplies.

“We’ve got cleanup kits, pallets of water, pallets of garbage bags, peanut butter, potato chips, MREs, juice boxes, sweet snacks, salty snacks, rakes, shovels, toilet tissue,” he said as he walked the shelves of supplies. “We have three kinds of cots — bariatric cots, medical cots with IV pole and the typical cots — and bath towels, infants’ formula, infant care kits with playpens for the shelters, flashlights, sponges, shower chairs and diapers. There’s shower seats for the elderly and



Red Cross volunteer Paul Hicks, of Helena, drove a forklift and helped unload and sort supplies during his deployment to Fayetteville, N.C., following Hurricane Florence.

sensory kits with weighted blankets for anxiety.”

When someone working in distribution puts in a request, Hicks delivers the supplies to those who will put them in the hands of those in need.

Hicks started his deployment in the rain — “All night it just poured,” he said — and began work in a small distribution center in Fuquay-Varina as many roads were blocked in the aftermath of the storm. He recalled trucks often had to take lengthy detours to reach their destinations.

During his three-week deployment, he’s seen “everything you can think about that you would need,” he said. “It’s amazing the things people donate and that the Red Cross provides.”

He works long days, typically 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., but forklift operation is easier on the retiree’s back than more hands-on distribution he’s done.

“It’s knowing I’m getting stuff out to people who need it, providing the materials they need,” he said.

“I enjoy getting out and helping people, and the other thing is meeting people from all over,” he said. “I’m working with a guy from New York City, drivers from Alabama, the supervisor from California.”

He’s been struck by the scale of the disaster and the Red Cross’s response.

“It’s different than dealing with housefires in Montana,” he said. “This is a major operation.”

— By Kristen Inbody

Goodman: First deployment

Raleigh Durham.

He was first assigned to a shelter in Jacksonville, N.C., where he and his Red Cross colleagues were greeted warmly.

“To see the looks on some of their faces when they see us walk in there with our vests on and it’s like ‘Oh, we’re going to be good now that the Red Cross is here. We have help,” he said.

He and his partners tended to the shelter residents’ medical needs. This involved getting prescriptions refilled, dressing wounds and helping clients with their CPAP machines.

It also meant setting up cots, retrieving blankets and doing whatever else was needed, whenever it was needed.

“The first three days that I was there I got maybe six hours of sleep,” he said. “We were working 12-hour shifts but of course if you’re there and the need’s there you stay up and you do what’s best for the clients. We would do whatever it took.”

A few days later that shelter closed. Its population along with residents from another shelter moved to a middle school 40 minutes away in Sneads Ferry. There his work continued, much of

“At the end of the day you say ‘I did something that made a difference.’”

— Jody Goodman

it centered around children and families.

“The kids were the hardest part, to see what they were going through,” Goodman said.

“Some were homeless, some of them didn’t have any family, any friends, anybody in the area they can stay with, so until (crews) come in and start fixing up the apartments they were pretty much going to be in the shelter.”

One of their clients was a mother of five, Goodman said, and the shelter staff did whatever they could to help her out.

“Everybody would chip in and keep an eye on her kids,” he said. “I would have one of them ... I would be walking around and feel this little hand reach down and grab my hand, and all of a sudden I had this little shadow that was following

me. That totally changed the hours, the sleeplessness and it made everything at that point just worthwhile.”

After nine days in North Carolina, Goodman is back to work in Nampa but says there is still plenty of work to be done on the coast.

“Now the rebuilding starts,” he said.

“All these people need to restart their lives and find places to go to, and kids need to get back into school and it needs to start getting back to the norm.”

Goodman, who donates blood regularly and taught a Red Cross CPR class many years ago, said he’s begun talking to other nurses at Saint Al’s about his deployment, encouraging them to volunteer for the Red Cross as well.

Would he deploy again? It doesn’t take Goodman long to answer.

“In a heartbeat. I wouldn’t even blink,” he said.

“It goes beyond me. I have my family, I have my friends and I’m in my own little world. And to step out of that ... to travel 3,000 miles away, clean across the United States, and help somebody in that situation is just a good feeling. At the end of the day you say ‘I did something that made a difference.’”

— By Matt Ochsner