

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

- August – [National Immunization Awareness Month](#)
- August 7 – [Purple Heart Day](#)
- August 12 – [International Youth Day](#)
- August 19 – [World Humanitarian Day](#)



24

Disaster responses in July. Clients helped: 96



MILESTONES

- VICKI RUBY**, 25 years
- ABBRA FIRMAN**, 10 years
- MARGARET WHERRITT**, 10 years
- JENIFER BUSICK**, 5 years
- JAMES RANGER**, 5 years



FOLLOW US

Thanks again to everyone who follows us on Facebook. And if you don't, please come check us out. For Red Cross news and updates visit facebook.com/MontanaRedCross or www.facebook.com/RedCrossIdaho

VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Celebrating your Red Cross anniversary this month? If so, watch for a Volunteer Satisfaction Survey. You will receive an email with the subject line "We need your feedback." Completing this survey helps us understand where we can improve. You can share additional feedback anytime by emailing IDMTE-OR.teamwork@redcross.org.



Idaho Red Cross celebrated the grand opening of its new Nampa Blood Donation Center in July with a ribbon-cutting event. Several board members and elected officials were on hand.

Nampa welcomes new donor center

Red Cross celebrated the grand opening of its new Nampa Blood Donation Center in July with a ribbon-cutting event and tours of the 6,000-square-foot facility.

Among those in attendance were Nampa Mayor Debbie Kling, Idaho Lt. Gov. Scott Bedke and the Nampa Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Kling joined Nampa Fire Chief Kirk Carpenter and Police Chief Joe Huff to donate blood at the center earlier that week. Lt. Gov. Bedke made his first-ever blood donation after speaking at the event.

The Nampa center, 5820 E. Franklin Road, opened with eight beds but will grow to 17 beds, making it one of the largest Red Cross centers in the country. It is in addition to the existing donor center in Boise, giving Treasure Valley donors another convenient option.

In the next year, Red Cross also will add a new donor center in Twin Falls, where it collects significant amounts of lifesaving blood. Idaho is one of just a handful of areas across the country selected for an expansion of this magnitude based on its growing population and generosity of its blood donors.



A good crowd, including four area media outlets, were on hand for the grand opening event.



Nampa Fire Chief Kirk Carpenter, left, Nampa Police Chief Joe Huff, center, and Nampa Mayor Debbie Kling donated blood together at the new Nampa center.



Idaho Red Cross Board Chairman Dr. Bart Hill, right, welcomes Idaho Lt. Gov. Scott Bedke to the podium.

Red Cross club inspires students

Twenty-two-year-old Ashley Tran will begin medical school at the University of Washington this fall already with plenty of experience helping patients under her belt.

For the past two years, Ashley served as the president of the Boise State University Red Cross Club. Under Ashley's leadership, the club had 60 members and helped organize campus blood drives nearly every month.

On average, these drives collected about 30 units of

blood, meaning each drive potentially helped save more than 30 lives. Many of those drives took place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when there was a severe blood shortage, and each unit was critically important.

"It feels really good, especially during the time when there was a serious need," the Boise native said. "Being able to help out with the campus community toward that cause was very



Ashley Tran of Boise was president of the Boise State University Red Cross Club, which helped organize monthly campus blood drives.

SEE CLUB, PAGE 2

Support our work through AmeriCorps

Learn about new AmeriCorps opportunities, catch up on our recent volunteer town halls and consider becoming a Red Cross duty officer.

AMERICORPS: Our region is recruiting six AmeriCorps members to support our mission — three in Yellowstone County in Montana and three in the Treasure Valley in Idaho.

AmeriCorps is a national service program, like a domestic Peace Corps. This is a full-time contracted volunteer position for 10.5 months.

These members will focus their service on recruiting and engaging volunteers and educating communities on emergency readiness. Members will also have the opportunity to assist with local disaster operations.

Members will receive a bi-weekly stipend of \$869 as well as health care and dental coverage. They are also eligible to apply for SNAP benefits.

They also can earn a \$6,895.00 education award at the end of their term which can be used toward student loans or future tuition.

If you or someone you know is inter-

IN THE KNOW



RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS

ested please visit <https://rdcrss.org/3DlxADO> (Idaho) or <https://rdcrss.org/3OgnoYf> (Montana).

Or call Eric Allen (Montana) at 406-320-2229, Barbara Weber (Idaho) at 208-510-732 or Peggy Smith at 208-789-3326.

TOWN HALLS: Thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent All Region Virtual Town Hall Meetings. If you missed them and want to get caught up on happenings across the region, visit https://americanredcross-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/valerie_ballard_redcross_org/EZYRtY7LUF9JrvIkui_mfAsBXH4OpAFODM8oQksagANDLA to view a recording.

We welcome questions and feedback at anytime. Reach out to us at idmte-or.teamwork@redcross.org.

POSITION OF THE MONTH: Join our team of dedicated volunteers as a duty officer and become a driving force in disaster response and client service delivery.

As a duty officer volunteer, you will provide leadership and guidance by answering initial calls for temporary assistance, gathering vital information and dispatching disaster action team volunteers. Your crucial role involves deploying the most appropriate resources to support essential efforts such as casework, sheltering, disaster assessment, and recovery planning. Training for this role is provided (online and with a supervisor).

LOCATION: Virtual, so you can contribute your skills and expertise from your own home.

COMMITMENT: At least six months, but if you're able to commit for a year that would be remarkable. Shifts are generally six hours each, and we ask for you to serve approximately one to two shifts per week.

Visit www.redcross.org/volunteer or email IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org.

Region welcomes new recruitment specialist

The Idaho, Montana and East Oregon Volunteer Services team is pleased to announce that Cami Boettcher is our new regional recruitment specialist.



Boettcher

Cami first came to the Red Cross in 2020 as a volunteer herself, as the recruitment specialist team lead.

"I have been a passionate volunteer my entire life through various organizations," she said. "I am eager to devote my professional and volunteer experience into this new role."

Cami has a bachelor's in Business Administration-Marketing and a master's in Counseling.

She most recently worked as a virtual admissions counselor at the College of Eastern Idaho.

She lives in Meridian with her husband of 17 years, three children (ages 10, 11 and 14) and a household full of pets.

In her free time she enjoys camping, reading, playing board games, gardening and learning new things.

"It has meant so much to me to be a volunteer with the Red Cross, and I am thrilled to collaborate with each of you as an employee!"



Camp Runnamucka

In July, our Service to the Armed Forces team took part in Camp Runnamucka, a Montana National Guard Child and Youth Camp held at Camp Rotary near Monarch, Mont. Campers learned resiliency skills and emergency preparedness through our Pillowcase Program. There were plenty of smiles to go around.

Our team also took part in a similar camp in Idaho a few weeks before.

Club: Ashley sees impact on patients

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

important."

The club used word-of-mouth and social media to help fill drives and really focused on bringing in first-time donors.

"It's very important to keep the ball rolling by getting those consistent donations," she said. "It all starts with the first person, introducing them to the process and making sure they're comfortable enough to come back and donate again."

Ashley got her start with the Red Cross when she was just 15 and attending Timberline High School. Her older sister Tiffany was also volunteering with the Red Cross, and Ashley served as a blood donor ambassador, helping donors check in at blood drives and making sure they had a good experience.

"It was one of the first volunteer opportunities I pursued because the Red Cross allowed junior volunteers," she said. "Not a lot of places let people under 18 volunteer, especially with such

big responsibilities.

"I was interested in the medical field at that time, and I hadn't donated blood before. As a kid you don't really know how the world works, and at that particular moment, I wanted to learn how blood donation works. As a blood donor ambassador, you really get a good idea of what that process looks like."

During COVID, Ashley also volunteered as a Red Cross medical screener at blood drives, making sure people were healthy enough to donate. She later became an onboarding and training volunteer with the Red Cross as well.

After Tiffany finished high school, she went to school at BSU where she became president of the Red Cross Club. Ashley followed in her sister's footsteps, taking over the reins after Tiffany graduated.

When she was 18, Ashley also began working as a nursing assistant on the oncology floor at Saint Alphonsus, a position she held for three years. It opened her eyes even more.

"A lot of my patients had to get blood transfusions," she said. "I had already been volunteering at the Red Cross at that point but seeing that really cemented the idea of how important blood donations are because one person can get 10 units of blood."

The BSU Red Cross Club has a new president in place and will continue organizing blood drives and bringing new donors through the door.

Ashley encourages students who are interested in starting a Red Cross club at their high school or college to "go for it."

"From my experience, the Red Cross is always willing to help, especially when it comes to community outreach and finding more opportunities for people to donate blood," she said.

START A CLUB

To learn more about starting a Red Cross club at your school visit, redcross.org/red-cross-youth/red-cross-clubs/starting-a-red-cross-club.html.