

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

- **World Red Cross Day**, May 8.
- **Mother's Day**, May 9.
- **International Water Safety Day**, May 15. Learn more [here](#).
- **National Stop The Bleed Day**, May 20. Learn more [here](#).
- **140th Anniversary of the American Red Cross**, May 22.
- **Memorial Day**, May 31.



29

Disaster responses in April. Clients helped: **121**



MILESTONES

May
ZACH NELL, 5 years
BECKY KELLY, 5 years



SUPPORT HOTLINE

The support hotline offers emotional support during COVID-19. The hotline is staffed by trained Disaster Mental Health volunteers. Call **571-353-1161**.



Dianne Brush, who enjoys being socially engaged, was tickled to make hundreds of calls to military families to check on their well-being, and to see how their service members are faring.

Satisfying task a two-way street

Volunteer finds comfort in making calls

Red Cross volunteer Dianne Brush loves talking with people and brightening their days. But the shutdowns and isolation that have come with COVID-19 have made that much more difficult. Pair that with the fact that she retired after 30 years with the Pocatello Police Department shortly before the pandemic hit, and she was in need of a social outlet.

So when she heard about an opportunity to make phone calls to the families of deployed service members and check in and see how they're doing she immediately raised her hand.

"It's been great for me," said Dianne, who is also a Red Cross disaster responder in Bannock County. "I'm a talker so I could really get people going."

She made about 160 calls to Idaho and Montana military families through the Service

to the Armed Forces program. The calls were all based on the same simple premise: How are you doing? How is your service member doing? And if you need anything, the Red Cross is here to help.

"We had some lovely conversations," she said. "They all expressed that they appreciated that the Red Cross cared about them and was reaching out to them to see how they were doing."

Dianne's son is serving in the Army National Guard so she had an immediate connection with many of these families and understands what they might be feeling.

"We had conversations about how important it is that young people serve our country and make that sacrifice," she said.

During one call, she learned that the service

SEE COMPASSION, PAGE 3



Kadyn Culp is a donor ambassador who welcomes donors to drives. He needed blood a few years ago after surgery.

Grateful teen eager to help

After a surgery a few years ago, Kadyn Culp needed blood and fast.

"I would tell the blood donors that I'm forever grateful for them donating blood. Without them, I'm not sure I would be alive," he said.

Kadyn, 19, is paying it forward.

As a high school senior at Capital High School in Helena, Kadyn became part of the Leaders Save Lives Blood Program and organized his first blood drive.

"I saw how many lives were impacted in just five hours," he said. "That's a great impact in a short time."

Through his drives, the Red Cross has collected 90 units — up to 270 people helped.

"Something I've learned through the experience of donating blood is with a relatively fast process you can help someone out," he said.

Kadyn was able to get his family involved as new donors, as well as his church, the Hannaford Street Bible Church, which hosted the blood drive.

"I told them I wanted to run this blood drive, but I didn't have a loca-

SEE GRATITUDE, PAGE 2

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

Help us spread the word

The Red Cross annual Sound the Alarm campaign concludes May 8, but there is still time for you to participate!

Each year, home fires result in thousands of injuries and fatalities. But by educating households about the importance of prevention and how to escape their homes in the event of a fire, we plan to help more families stay safe.

Here's how you can help:

Refer those in your network to register for a virtual home fire safety visit conducted by a team of regional home fire safety educators.

Register by calling or by following the links below.

By phone: 800-272-6668

On the web:

For Idaho/East Oregon residents

https://www.redcross.org/

homefiresafetyID

For Montana residents

https://www.redcross.org/

homefiresafetyMT

You also can commit to educating those in your network about home fire safety. To engage in this way, please contact scott.davis2@redcross.org. We'll equip you with the knowledge



Red Cross fire safety experts can conduct virtual home visits to help families review or develop a fire safety plan. Please help us recruit more families.

and resources to drive these home fire conversations.

Did we mention there are incentives?

By completing and documenting five virtual home fire safety visits or referring five households in your network,

you will be entered in a drawing for a Red Cross emergency radio. The individual with the most virtual home fire safety visits or referrals will also receive a deluxe 3-day emergency preparedness kit.

Seeking onboarding volunteer

In The Know keeps volunteers in the loop about opportunities and updates. Explore the position of the month, helping guide and develop other volunteers. Also, don't miss a chance to visit with other Red Crossers, and learn how you can support our work in Idaho as you file your taxes.

POSITION HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH: Are you looking for a leadership role? Are you organized and computer savvy? Are you able to provide clear directions? If so, you may be interested in joining the Service to the Armed Forces department as an onboarding lead, a newly created volunteer position.

The lead welcomes new volunteers, conducts department interviews, and connects volunteers to training. They monitor the volunteer's progress toward onboard/training completion and provides support

Location: Virtual/work from home

Need to have reliable internet service and phone coverage.

Responsibilities:

- Ensure that new volunteers understand the job's scope and duties
• Explain how Service to the Armed Forces supports the Red Cross mission
• Provide access to training
• Enhance volunteer satisfaction, offer access to resources and provide feedback as needed

IN THE KNOW



RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS

- Oversee new volunteer applicants, and place each in a matching job.

Time commitment: Approximately 5 hours a week after initial training.

Interested in this position or know someone who might be? Send an email to IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org.

IDAHO TAX OPPORTUNITY.

Please consider supporting the Red Cross of Greater Idaho as you file your taxes this year. The Idaho individual income tax form provides an easy way to donate money to the humanitarian organization and support our work. Just fill out the line next to the American Red Cross of Idaho Fund on your tax form to make a donation. (See photo below.) These tax-deductible donations will stay in Idaho and help Red Cross provide disaster relief, collect and distribute blood, support military members and their families, recruit, train and

deploy volunteers and teach lifesaving skills like CPR and first aid.

PLEASE PASS THE KETCHUP.

Volunteers, don't miss out on the fun! Ketchup With Friends is simply a social time with colleagues — no agenda, no training.

Johnnie Sue Elliott was the winner of our monthly drawing, taking home a Service to the Armed Forces hat.

Join us for fun times with fellow Red Crossers during our next social time together, May 11 at noon. Enter the drawing, enjoy conversation.



We would love to have additional event team members to help us plan more fun events like this one.

If you would like to be part of the Virtual Event Team, please contact Nate Gilbert at

Nathan.Gilbert@redcross.org.

Join the Ketchup With Friends Microsoft Teams meeting on your computer or mobile app at noon on May 11.

Click here to join the meeting

Table with 2 columns: Line number and Description. Includes rows for Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund, Special Olympics Idaho, American Red Cross of Idaho Fund, Idaho Foodbank Fund, and TOTAL TAX PLUS DONATIONS.

Gratitude: Teen's experience drives loyalty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

location. They were more than happy to help me out," he said.

Now Kady is a Red Cross blood donor ambassador and a Montana State University psychology student. His fourth drive is set for May 14.

As a donor ambassador, Kady checks in people, takes temperatures,

refreshes the canteen, and "everything I did at the blood drives, just with a different title."

"I try to tell how impactful it is," he said. "If they haven't gone through the experience of needing blood — which is good, it's not a fun experience — they don't quite understand."

— Story by Red Cross writing team volunteer Kristen Inbody

To donate blood

You can schedule an appointment today to donate, or search for a blood drive near you by visiting our Web site, RedCrossBlood.org. You may also call 800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Allow about an hour for the entire donation process.



Nursing symposium part of celebration

May is Nurses' Month, and as part of the monthlong celebration, Nursing and Health Leadership will be sponsoring a four-part Symposium for all American Red Cross Nurses. Two regional nurses, Barbara Gumbert and Jo Ericksen, will be highlighted during the first Symposium call on May 4 (See schedule).

The Symposium will take place via Teams each Tuesday in May from 1-2 p.m. MDT and will highlight nurses serving in each of the Red Cross

lines of service. Continuing Education Units are available. Barbara and Jo represent both the Idaho and Montana Division and the Pacific Division.

May 4. Disaster Health and Mental Health Services – [Click here to join.](#)

May 11. Biomedical / Blood Services – [Click here to join.](#)

May 18. SAF and Training Services – [Click here to join.](#)

May 25. International Services – [Click here to join.](#)

Thank you to our nurses!

National Nurses Week is May 6 to May 12, and we are celebrating our nurses across the region, including Idaho, Montana, and East Oregon. The Red Cross is grateful to our dedicated, selfless nurses.

Michele Appel, Mandy Baker, Mary Boyer, Nadine Brown, Alex Carr, Abbie Colussi, Robin Cory, Angela Dantonio, Nancy Dezell, Jamie Eastman, Annabeth Elliott, Jo Ericksen, Lisa Garrison, Barbara Gumbert, Kate Harrison, Diana Hornung, Linda Hudson, Sarah Knapp, Katie Lane, Patricia Maurer, Shannon McCalla, Judith Miller, Kimberly Monson, Christel Nani, Frances Newcombe, Patricia Nordel, Jennifer Olmstead, Alexandra Potts, Linda Sabel, Karen Sare, Susan Smith, Toni Taylor, Christina VanSchaick, Marguerite Weis and Katherine Yarrish.

UNSUNG HEROES

Harnessing the power of volunteers

Volunteerism is the engine that drives the work done by the Red Cross. As a thank-you to some of our spectacular volunteers during National Volunteer Week, we highlighted some of our unsung volunteer heroes.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES. Our Recruitment Team Lead, Cami Boettcher, has been an amazing volunteer. She does a TON of work behind the scenes and does a fantastic job helping our youth volunteers be the BEST! She tosses out ideas and suggests ways to improve our materials. She takes what we have and makes it better and then engages our volunteers with meaningful projects. She has created an interactive newsletter that was shared with the rest of our leadership team. Funny, caring and creative, Cami is a wonderful resource. We love working with you, Cami!



Cami

INTERNATIONAL LAW. George Lynch has been instrumental in connecting the right people to help expand our International and Humanitarian Law (IHL) program. George has reached out to organizations and taught them about IHL through our three levels of courses. Thank you, George, for bringing Even War Has Rules to groups like the International Rescue Committee. You are our Unsung Hero.



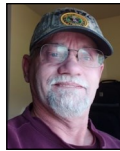
George

LOGISTICS. Ed Graves makes sure the right things get to the right places at the right time. As the logistics lead for Western Idaho, who also supports the entire Idaho-Montana region in logistics, Ed is an invaluable volunteer. He works largely behind the scenes to make things happen. He manages the region's warehouse inventory, distributes supplies and

is always eager to help. In addition to his logistics work, Ed is also a Disaster Action Team member, certified emergency response vehicle driver and an experienced sheltering and feeding responder

Ed who has deployed to many national disasters. Thank you, Ed, for your tireless "can-do" attitude and all the hard work and ongoing effort.

OPERATIONS. Alan Colvin has made an immediate and positive impact for the operations team. He took it upon himself to take a 20-hour course to learn Microsoft Excel and achieved advanced level certification. That allowed him to efficiently run the fleet maintenance project, which monitors fleet repairs and maintenance requirements to ensure safety. Alan's "can-do" attitude is demonstrated every day in his array of tasks. His tasks include COVID cleanings, fleet and facilities maintenance and various administrative duties. He truly wakes up every day and finds ways to help his colleagues and teammates. Thank you, Alan, for your kind heart and spirit and dedicated service.



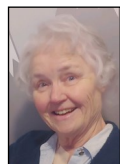
Alan

DISASTER HEALTH SERVICES.

Barbara Gumbert joined the Idaho/Montana region as a dedicated Disaster Health Services volunteer with experience in both the Northwest and Central and Southern Ohio regions. In fact, Barb pulls double duty volunteering in Idaho and Montana, and virtually for Ohio, as well.

Barbara G.

She is always jumping in to support our clients during disasters – recently supporting an apartment fire in Great Falls,



as well as California wildfires. Barb has also been a strong support as we transition to a different client casework system, making herself available to support clients and other volunteers. Thank you, Barb, for your dedication and kindness.

COMMUNICATIONS. Kristen Inbody knows how to tell a compelling Red Cross story. With a background in newspaper reporting and nonprofit communications, Kristen joined the Idaho-Montana Red Cross volunteer writing team in 2018 and shines a spotlight on our dedicated volunteers and the important work they do. She's written stories about the Warners, an Ammon couple who helped reunite a family following a fire; Cut Bank volunteer Landis Meeks and his three decades of Red Cross service; and a Kalispell woman who donates quilts to families who lost their homes to fire, among many others.



Kristen

Thank you, Kristen, for your kind heart and for helping share our heroes' stories.

SERVICE TO THE ARMED FORCES. Through her work as a resiliency facilitator for military members and their families, Barbara Miner is our Service to the Armed Forces Unsung Hero. Barbara skillfully leads participants through resiliency programs such as Stress Solutions and Communicating Clearly. Many partner organizations ask us back for workshops because of Barbara! She was also recently asked to become a facilitator trainer for the Pacific Division, proving her abilities are noticed by others. Thank you, Barbara, for sharing your talents and skills with our military and veteran populations.



Barbara M.

Compassion: COVID isolation takes toll

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

member, who is in the Navy, had come back home because his father was seriously ill. The family explained that they were faced with huge medical bills and don't even have money for a headstone or the man's burial.

Dianne was able to put them in touch with Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces program leaders who connected the family with VA resources.

Mostly, the families talked about the

struggles of COVID and the loneliness that comes with it.

For Dianne, the conversations were a two-way street.

"People talked about the isolation and loneliness of the past year and their worries about their service member — whether they were safe and healthy," she said.

"They really like having someone to talk to who cared about them, and it helped me combat some of my isolation and loneliness."

GET INVOLVED

The Service to the Armed Forces program provided comfort and care to more than 2,270 Idaho and Montana military families last year. If you would like to learn more about this program and how you too can get involved, email IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org or contact Recruitment Specialist Gini Kay at 406-493-8778.