



Chapter Matters



September 2010 | A monthly newsletter for friends of the American Red Cross

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September is Preparedness Month

Many people in this country have experienced a significant crisis in their home or neighborhood, but less than half of the people surveyed by the Red Cross have taken steps to be prepared for emergencies. September is Preparedness Month, a time set aside to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.

In a survey conducted late last summer, the Red Cross found that although 89% of those surveyed believe being prepared is important, far fewer people are ready for an actual emergency. Twenty percent of those surveyed have not done anything to prepare and aren't sure how to begin.

Start by following these 3 simple steps to being Red Cross Ready:

- 1) Get a kit: have at least 3 days of supplies in an easy-to-carry evacuation kit
- 2) Make a plan: planning ahead will help you prepare for the best possible response to disaster
- 3) Be informed: know what may happen and how you can potentially help

Together, we can prepare and be ready for emergencies of all types in our community. Learn more about being [Red Cross Ready](http://www.redcrossofnei.org) today by visiting our website at: www.redcrossofnei.org.

Write a Will, Leave a Legacy

The American Red Cross mission of providing relief to victims of disaster and helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies guides all Red Crossers, whether volunteers or employees. But how does it apply to our donors, the life-blood of the organization? The simple act of including Red Cross in your estate plan follows the Red Cross 3 "Ps": Prevent, Prepare and Provide.



Merely by taking the time to formulate an estate plan, which typically includes a will or trust, you **prevent** your loved ones from additional distress at a difficult time; **prepare** for the distribution of your estate and the care and support of dependants; **provide** for loved ones and trusted organizations, like the American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana. All Red Cross assistance is free of charge through the generosity of the American people. Planned gifts, such as a bequest in an estate plan, help the Red Cross provide relief and sustain our operations and services.

The American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana is participating in the 2010 Leave a Legacy® Write a Will Event. During the week of November 14, the Red Cross will partner with area estate attorneys and provide donors, clients, volunteers and staff the opportunity to meet with a volunteer attorney about their will and charitable bequest. Check off your "to-do" list by making a charitable bequest and preparing a simple will, completely free of charge. Contact Jeri Rusk, Financial Development Officer, at (260) 484-9336 x230 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are scheduled every 30 minutes during the following days and times: Monday, November 15, 3-5 p.m.; Tuesday, November 16, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, November 17 & 18, 9 a.m. – noon



United Way Day of Caring

B.F. Goodrich employees supported the United Way Day of Caring by attending an American Red Cross Changing Lives Tour then washing several Red Cross vehicles throughout the day. Many thanks to each of them for their hard work on a hot day and to the United Way for their support of the American Red Cross!

The American Red Cross Feeding Committee organized and prepared breakfast for 450 participants of the United Way Day of Caring. The food was prepared in the disaster kitchen of the Red Cross and transported on the Emergency Response Vehicle. Thirty-two Red Cross volunteers served breakfast via two feeding lines at Headwaters Park to the participants before they headed out to their projects for the day. Special thanks to our Feeding Committee and volunteers for making this possible!

Society for HOPE Fundraising Breakfast

What if you could help make a difference in the lives of your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors when the next disaster or emergency strikes? You can by joining us for a complimentary breakfast on Friday, November 19 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Ceruti's Summit Park at 6601 Innovation Blvd. in Fort Wayne as part of our [4th Annual Society for H.O.P.E.](#) (Helping Others Prepare for Emergencies) fundraising breakfast. Hear stories from our clients about how your local Red Cross assisted during their time of need and helps those in our community each day.

This is a fundraising breakfast, but there is no minimum or maximum gift requested. All proceeds will benefit local Red Cross programs and services. For more information or to RSVP for the breakfast, please contact Jeri Rusk at (260) 484.9336 ext. 230 or ruskj@usa.redcross.org today! We'd love to be able to share our Red Cross story with you.



Red Cross responds to power outage in Noble County

On June 24, the American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana deployed the Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) to Noble County. Volunteers provided snacks, bottled water and ice to those without power due to the storms in Albion and Brimfield. The ERV returned on June 25 to provide lunch to those impacted by the power outage.

Many thanks to Kendallville Wal-Mart, Albion Dairy Queen and Noble REMC for their generous donations toward this disaster relief effort. Additionally, The Noble County Community Foundation provided the Red Cross with a \$500 mid-cycle grant to assist with the emergency.

Generous support from our local community makes our services possible. Noble County residents are currently challenging their community to help them raise \$10,000 through the Noble County Heroes campaign. Funds raised will benefit local programs and services. It's not too late to become a hero for the Red Cross. For more information, please contact David Hockley at 260.447.3896 or ddhockley@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events: For details on these and other events, please visit <http://redcrossofnei.org/calendar.php>.

September is National Preparedness Month

- **September 10 - 24:** Interpreter Workshop Series
- **September 22:** Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- **October 14:** Changing Lives Tour, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **October 28:** Changing Lives Tour, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **November 2:** Donate for Democracy [Fundraising Event](#)
- **November 11:** Changing Lives Tour, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **November 19:** Society for HOPE Fundraising Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m., Ceruti's Summit Park



You can help the Red Cross go green and cut costs. For instant access to news, events, and other opportunities, sign up to receive *Chapter Matters* via e-mail. Visit <http://www.redcrossofnei.org/downloads.html> for details!