



Chapter Matters



March 2011 | A monthly newsletter for friends and supporters of the American Red Cross

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Celebrate National Red Cross Month

March is National Red Cross month and time for you to get involved! Get certified in First Aid, CPR and much more by taking a class. If you have already been certified you can make sure all of your skills are up-to-date by registering for a recertification class. Class information and times are posted on our website at: <https://redcrossofnei.org/classes.php>.

The local Red Cross kicked-off National Red Cross month on Thursday, March 3, at the Red Cross Night hosted at the Mad Ants basketball game. Deputy Mayor Beth Malloy proclaimed March as "Red Cross Month." Bart the Bear showed his support by entertaining the crowd. It was a great night for basketball and Red Cross fans!

Other ways to participate in National Red Cross Month include donating blood, preparing for the spring storms by keeping your emergency preparedness kits current, or simply keeping up with the **American Red Cross** of Northeast Indiana events and volunteers on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



Interpreter Workshop Series

With over 80 languages spoken in the Fort Wayne Community Schools, there is an abundance of cultural diversity present in our community, but language doesn't have to be an unnecessary barrier. The **American Red Cross** hosted an Interpreter Workshop Series that began on March 4. This ground-breaking introductory program targeted bilingual staff and community professionals who work in healthcare, schools, human resources and/or social services setting. Sixteen participants will complete the series.

Winter Storms and Disaster Preparedness

The **American Red Cross** of Northeast Indiana responded to the winter storm by opening a shelter at The First Assembly of God church on February 1. The shelter provided food and a place for stranded motorists and people without power to stay for the night.

Thank you to all the volunteers for their efforts in making this possible!

Winter storms can go from light snow to a life threatening blizzard in a matter of hours. **Be Red Cross Ready** by following these three easy steps: Get a kit, make a plan, be informed. Test your skills for dealing with the unexpected by taking our [online preparedness training course](#).

Chest Compressions Save Lives

Educating bystanders to step in and deliver hands-only CPR could help save the lives of up to 300,000 Americans who experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital setting each year. The **American Red Cross** initiative "Citizen CPR" aims to educate 5 million people in this life-saving procedure. Citizen CPR uses a hands only technique to deliver compressions to the chest of an individual experiencing cardiac arrest.

Omitting the breaths between compressions is a way to encourage people to give compressions even if they are uncomfortable with blowing air into a victim's mouth. "Doing compressions will circulate oxygen in the body, help keep the person alive longer and is better than doing nothing at all," Erin McDonald, Director of Preparedness and Safety Solutions, said.

This 30-minute class teaches participants how to check for consciousness, what to do when calling 9-1-1 and how to give continuous chest compressions.

If you are interested in learning how to save a life, class information is listed at <http://www.redcrossofnei.org/>.

In honor of Gabrielle Giffords, the **American Red Cross** is hosting Save-a-Life Saturday at Glenbrook Square Mall. Learn life saving CPR and first aid skills at this March 19 event. Free one-hour classes held at 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.



Volunteers Promote Fire Safety on Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day

Instead of relaxing on MLK day, **American Red Cross** volunteers raised awareness about fire safety in areas of Fort Wayne with the highest rates of house fires.

A total of 80 volunteers, comprised of members of the St. Francis dance team, Trine University Multicultural Fraternity, the mayor's Youth Council, **American Red Cross** members as well as individual volunteers, canvassed between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Firefighters from the Fort Wayne Fire Department joined the cause by installing fire alarms in homes that same day.

In an effort to ensure that no member of the community was left out of the day of service, the **American Red Cross** also translated a number of door hangers from English to Burmese and distributed them to three apartment complexes with high Burmese populations.



The **American Red Cross** is grateful for those who donated their time to help the community and to the Fire Department for the free fire alarms. Special thanks to Protechs, Inc. for sponsoring this event and providing lunch to all of the volunteers, as well as to the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for the grant to make this all happen!

Save the Date!

March 24 and April 28: Changing Lives Tours, 12:00pm

May 3: Honor the 2011 Humanitarian of the Year, Mark Hagerman, by joining him for lunch at the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown. The Humanitarian of the Year award recognizes a local person whose efforts and accomplishments have made our community a better place to live and work. Mark Hagerman has a long history of philanthropic and civic involvement in our community. One of his most admirable qualities is that whether serving as chairman of a board or providing encouragement and financial help to an ailing friend or employee, he desires no publicity or thanks and a favor in return is never expected.

May 18: The **American Red Cross** will hold its 16th Annual Golf Outing at the Cobblestone Golf Course in Kendallville. Teams will enjoy a day full of fun, food, silent auction and prizes! The tournament format is a four-person scramble. The cost is \$125 per person or \$500 per team.

For more information on any of these events please contact Jeri Rusk at 260-484-9336 x 230 or ruskj@usa.redcross.org, or visit <http://redcrossofnei.org/calendar.php>.

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!