



**American  
Red Cross**

Southern Maryland Chapter

**Southern Maryland Chapter  
News  
Information and More.....**

**January 2009**

*Happy New Year*

*Mike, Debora, Diane, Gregory, Bunky, Pat, Teresa, Liz, Jennifer, and Alice*

We need Your Help, so WE can Help Others

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*Gift Cards*

***Next time you buy a Gift Card, think about the Chapter! Gas, Food, Computer Store.....***

The Southern Maryland Chapter of the America Red Cross is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Ready to help in times of need or in the case of an emergency. Your support will enable us to continue giving hope and to provide the services needed by our community. Give generously to the Chapter through one of the following methods:

**Donate by Mail:**

Southern Maryland Chapter, American Red Cross  
P.O. Box 507  
La Plata, MD 20646

(Please indicate on check, if for the chapter's general fund account or Local disaster account.)

**Donate by Phone:**

Give us a call at 301-934-2066 or call toll free at 1-888-276-2767

**Donate in Person:**

Southern Maryland Chapter Headquarters or our other Offices in Calvert and St Mary's.

9255 W & W Industrial Road, La Plata, MD

**Donate Online:** visit <http://southernmaryland.redcross.org>

Click on Red Cross Service, Click on Donate

Call Jennifer @ 301-342 4635 or 888-276-2767 or  
[JenniferS@SOMDRedCross.org](mailto:JenniferS@SOMDRedCross.org)

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**Do you know someone who could donate: cases of bottle water, flashlights, computer paper, or office equipment? How about a storage shed? A room to hold meetings and training classes! Big or small, it never hurts to ask!!!**

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**December Services Provided**

**Responses of the Disaster Action Teams: Eight DAT calls, Four in Charles County, One in Calvert County and Three in St. Mary's County.**

**We ended the year with a total of 87 calls (Charles – 32; Calvert – 26; St. Mary's – 29) and provided just over \$32,000 of assistance.**

**People Trained in Lifegiving Skills: 139**

**Blood Drive: 16 Blood drive were Scheduled**

Happy New Year Everyone from the Call Center

Please note the change in the scheduled activation day and time for this month: FRIDAY, January 16, 2009 (5 pm until 9 pm). Note that the scheduled activation is in the evening. For those of you who have not had the chance to assist in recent activations due to the timeframe, this is the chance for you to join us again. Thank you in advance for all of your support and interest in assisting in the LaPlata call center.

Future dates for scheduled activation: January 16, 2009 ( 5 – 9 pm)  
February 11, 2009 ( 5 – 9 pm)  
March 11, 2009 (9 am – 1 pm)  
None in April  
May 22, 2009 ( 5 – 9 pm)  
June 8, 2009 (5 – 9 pm)

ALERT MONTH WILL PROBABLY BE IN AUGUST (Yes, Hurricane Season)

Teresa Gretton

[TeresaG@SOMDRedCross.org](mailto:TeresaG@SOMDRedCross.org)

301-379-6771

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***Upcoming Volunteer Event***

## Lower Potomac River Marathon Sunday, March 8, 2009

Looking for volunteers to help in handing out water and power drinks to the runners. We will be set up at one of the water stations.

Start/Finish at Paul Hall Center, Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship, Piney Point, MD.

**Race Start:** 7:15 a.m. Reminder - **Daylight Saving Time** starts at 2:00 a.m. on March 8, so you'll be losing an hour the night before the race. Don't forget to set your clock **AHEAD** one hour the night before. The race has a five hour time limit.

After the race all volunteers are invited to a Hot Buffet at the Paul Hall Center's Dining room on the campus.

### ***Christmas Wall Hanging***

Linda Colantonio donated a wonderful Christmas Wall Hanging which she made by hand. Raffle tickets were sold. Selling the tickets brought in a donation to the Chapter of over \$750 for the local Disaster Fund. The lucky winner was Debbie Ledford of Port Tobacco.

*The Southern Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross relies heavily on the support of caring individuals like you as we work to provide relief for disaster victims and helps prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies of all kinds. We had over 300 hours of volunteer time in the month of December. As for 2008, our wonderful volunteers performed over 3,000 hours assisting the citizens of Southern Maryland*

**Service To Armed Forces APPRECIATION DINNER**

On Friday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> the Chapter hosted an Appreciation Night for Service Men and Woman in Southern Maryland. The event was held at the Holiday Inn Select on Solomons Island. It was an evening full of good food, drink, music preformed by Southern Maryland Recording Star John Luskey, speeches, and prizes. A big thank you goes out to Jennifer Spedden for putting it all together.

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Do you know someone who does not have Health Insurance?  
Here is an opportunity to save.

**Save up to 75% off on all FDA approved drugs  
at 57,000 pharmacies nationwide.**

**We have the free membership cards at all of the Chapter's locations or  
you can visit the web site <http://www.yourrxcard.com/?source=redcross>  
To obtain a personalize card.**

***We are more than just Health & Safety, Disaster Service, and helping the  
military! We are Out and About in Southern Maryland.***

Trinity Memorial Gardens in Waldorf has sponsored a Christmas tradition for 15 years to help take the edge off of those feelings of loss and

sadness. It is called *The Tree of Remembrance* program. The event raises money for a local charity. The Chapter has been honored to be the recipient for the past several years. Chapter CEO Mike Zabko, along with volunteers: Linda Colantonio, Helen Kulle, and Camille Smith were at the event with an Emergency Response Vehicle handing out Hot Chocolate and Cookies to everyone standing in the bone chilling temperatures.

## ***WE DO DAT*** ***December 2008***

Our DAT teams were kept busy during December 2008. We ended the month with eight DAT calls, four in Charles County, one in Calvert County and three in St. Mary's County. We ended the year with a total of 87 calls (Charles – 32; Calvert – 26; St. Mary's – 29) and provided just over \$32,000 of assistance. With the weather beginning to get much colder, we need to be prepared for the anticipated increase in calls for our assistance.

As announced last month, we had an organizational DAT meeting, for Calvert County DAT members on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at the Calvert County Library, Fairview Branch. We had a good turn out of DAT members and were able to set up and schedule two DAT teams for the county. Congratulations go out to Rita Bergendahl and Matthew Marsico on their appointment as DAT Captains for these new teams. There is no doubt that these enthusiastic teams are going to help bring Red Cross assistance to those families in need in Calvert County.

January is going to be a very busy month for all of us in the Southern Maryland area. Not only do we need to be prepared to respond when disaster strikes, but we will also be involved to varying extents with the many major events surrounding the upcoming presidential inauguration. Keeps an eye on your e-mail for additional information concerning our preparations for this very significant occasion.

Thanks again for your continued support and dedication to helping your neighbors in need. *Greg Jones, Director of Disaster Services*

## **IN KIND Donation**

During disasters when large numbers of people are displaced from their residences it is often perceived that individual and/or used items such

as food, clothing and shoes are needed and accepted by the American Red Cross. However, this is not the case.

The American Red Cross does not accept or solicit small, individual donations or collections of items for emergency relief purposes. Small items such as collections of food, used clothing, and shoes often must be cleaned, sorted, and repackaged which impedes the valuable resources of money, time, and personnel that are needed for other aspects of our relief operation. The Red Cross, in partnership with other agencies, suggests that the best use for those types of donations is to support needy agencies within donors' local communities.

The Red Cross does accept sizable, bulk donations only when they meet the service delivery needs of a particular relief operation. These donations typically come from companies that can package the items in bulk, palletize them, and ship them directly to the disaster site. The best way to help a disaster victim is through a financial donation to the American Red Cross. Financial contributions allow the Red Cross to purchase exactly what is needed for the disaster relief operation. Monetary donations also enable the Red Cross to purchase relief supplies close to the disaster site which avoids delays and transportation costs in getting basic necessities to disaster victims.

Because the affected community has generally experienced significant economic loss, purchasing relief supplies in or close to the disaster site also helps to stimulate the weakened local economy.

The Red Cross strongly encourages any individual or business that is considering starting a collection or shipping goods to a disaster site to first locate a reliable relief organization that is willing and able to receive the donation, and can guarantee transportation and distribution.



An American Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle

**We are growing in Calvert**

We welcome RITA BERGENDAHL and MATTHEW MARSICO as Team Captains for the Disaster Action Teams in Calvert County. Their teams consist of volunteers DIANE MURPHY, JOYCE LLOYD, MICHAEL WATTERSON, REBECCA MOORE LAURA GLASGOW, HELEN KULLE, EARL BUFFALOE, and LINDA RINES

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*"Health and Safety, where the American Red Cross comes in contact with the community every day."*

Debora Storey, Director of Health and Safety Services welcomes Five new Health and Safety instructors! **Tom McCabe, Olimide Johnson, Jaclyn Shaw, Sandra Turner, and James Farren**



**Our \$60,000 Community Rewards Giveaway allows Southern Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross the opportunity to earn a share of \$60,000 based on your Gold Card purchases. Simply sign up for the program - then use your Gold Card every time you shop!**

**Your Gold Card purchases will be credited to the Southern Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross. At the end of the program, McKay's will donate \$60,000 to the Southern Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross based on the percentage of Gold Card purchases credited to them.**

**Your purchases will be credited to the Southern Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross beginning October 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009. Watch for ways to earn DOUBLE CONTRIBUTIONS throughout the year!**

**To register your Gold Card, go to [www.mycommunityrewards.com](http://www.mycommunityrewards.com) Click on the McKAYS logo**



**Food Lion Shop & Share is the easiest, most convenient way to raise money for the Southern Maryland Chapter. Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to the Chapter. Food Lion knows it is important to be involved in the local communities in which it serves, and Lion Shop & Share is our way of helping you help your community grow and prosper**

**Food Lion Shop and Share Program**

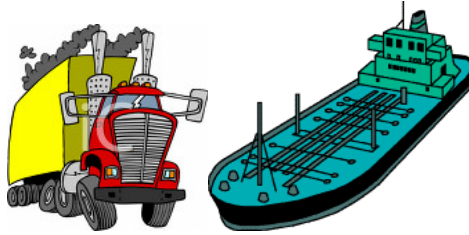
**<https://www.foodlion.com>**

**Apply for a Free MVP Card, and then call 1-800-210-9569 to register for credit to the Chapter.**

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**THANK YOU, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative**

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative recently donated nearly \$23,000 to the Southern Maryland Chapter of the Red Cross. The Money was collected through several fund-raising efforts during the past year, including a charity golf tournament and food sales at the annual members meeting.



**Donate your used car, truck, R.V., motorcycle, boat, farm, construction equipment, real estate, and even time shares to the American Red Cross Southern Maryland Chapter**

**Our program is simple ...** Avoid the hassle and expense of selling and the dangers of dealing with strangers in your home. **Just donate your vehicle to the American Red Cross..It's Easy !** **FREE** pickup at your home or office ! You pocket the tax savings !

Call or e-mail us for details toll free hot line 888 276 2767



An American Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle

**When a Disaster Hit Southern Maryland...**

***You as a volunteer do not hear from us, it might be because we can not get in touch with you.***

Please report to any of the following.....

***Headquarters - La Plata 9255 W & W Industrial Road, La Plata  
Prince Frederick Office - 150 Main Street, Suite 104 Prince Frederick,  
Coop at 41655 Courthouse Rd, Leonardtown  
Pax River Office - 22187 Arnold Circle, Building 401 Patuxent River  
If the Base is in lockdown, please report to Technology Security  
Associates, Inc. 46915 South Shangri-La Drive***

**It's important that you be prepared for possible disasters and other emergencies. Natural or human-caused disasters can strike suddenly, at anytime and anywhere. There are three actions everyone can take that can help make a difference.**

**1. Get a Kit 2. Make a Plan 3. Be Informed.**

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**Ride with Pride**  
Red Cross Maryland License Plates

To get enrolled, all you need to do is email *Bob "Bunky" Gretton*  
at  
[BobG@SOMDRedCross.org](mailto:BobG@SOMDRedCross.org)  
with your name and current plate number

**You will receive an application from the DMV and will be asked to pay  
a one time fee of \$25.00 to the DMV**