



# Southern Maryland Chapter *Volunteer E-Bulletin*

April 2008

**V**aluable is the work you do.  
**O**utstanding is how you always come through.  
**L**oyal, sincere and full of good cheer,  
**U**ntiring in your efforts throughout the year,  
**N**otable are the contributions you make.  
**T**rustworthy in every project you take.  
**E**ager to reach your every goal.  
**E**ffective in the way you fulfill your role.  
**R**eady with a smile like a shining star,  
**S**pecial and wonderful—that's what you are

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## *Volunteering in the month of March!*

Volunteers assisted clients by answering phones in the Call Center, being there for the runners at the Marathon, by making the Oktoberfest an success, by the Disaster Action Team responding to fires, the Radio crew working on our network, the Board keeping everything in working order, and all the volunteers,

*We Do Make a Difference*

## **Call Center**

Congratulations to the call agents who worked a successful call center at the La Plata office on Wednesday morning, March 5 from 9 – 1 p.m. They answered a total of approximately 25 calls. These supportive and enthusiastic volunteers consisted of **Cindy Bears, Terrance Dyson, Jack Faherty, Lori Miller, Bob Gretton, Mike Zabko and Teresa Gretton.** The call agent team earned an “*excellent*” rating from the Response Center Enterprise (RCE) for their four hour job. On behalf of the Southern Maryland Chapter Call Center, thanks team! The next activation of the call center for the RCE will be on Friday, April 11 in the afternoon from 1 – 5 p.m. Please make a note on your calendars.

[Teresa Gretton, Call Center Supervisor](#)

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

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## **Marathon**

*Mike Zabko, Harry Liller, Jennifer Spedden and Husband, Ashok Singh, Bruce Gentile, Ken LaCapria, Rose Mellies along with her Husband and two children, and Bob Gretton.* These brave volunteers fought the wind and cold to help the runners involved with the 4th annual Lower Potomac River Marathon at Piney Point on March the 9<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter supplied radio communication and handed out snacks, water, and energy drinks at the watering station at the 20 mile marker.

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*Bratwurst, Beer and Bavarian Music*

Good Food, Good Drink, Good Fun, Good Times!  
What a way to Celebrate Red Cross Month!

We had a wonderful showing of volunteers at the Oktoberfest! The weather was great. The food and beer were tasty. The Bavarian group was top of the line, and the clowns were not bad either..... Thanks to all who volunteered their time and talent to make Oktoberfest in March a Wonderful event. And a big thanks to Jennifer who pulled it altogether.

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*American Red Cross National Convention*



*Pictured above is our own Teresa Gretton, her along with Bob were the Lead Marshals for the Parade of Volunteers.*

The American Red Cross National Convention was held in Baltimore and what a showing by the Southern Maryland Chapter. From greeting people at the airport, welcoming delegates into the meeting rooms, to working the information desk, assisting backstage and heading the parade. Wherever you looked it was someone from the Southern Maryland Chapter who answered the call. Our Team! Mike, Debora, Dianne, Greg, Liz, Jennifer, Bob, and

Teresa Along with these GREAT Volunteers: Anna Hastings, Pat Wolcott, Pat Schroeder, Trish DeGroot, Laura Alvarez, Earl Buffaloe, and Lori Miller. If you know someone who volunteered from our Chapter whose name is not mentioned, please contact Bob Gretton. It was a Huge convention.

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**Be on the “Look-Out” for information on upcoming events! We will need volunteers for Christmas in April, the Scout Jamboree, Ride for the Red, and a Golf tournament.**

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## Spotlight on a Volunteer

### *This month it's* **Ed and Debbie May**

Ed and Debbie May got involved with Disaster Services for the Charles County Chapter in July of 2001. Ed had been a volunteer fire fighter and wanted to get involved in the community so decided to give the Red Cross a try. While watching the Intro to Disaster tape Debbie decided to also join and give it a try. Debbie and Ed had 20 years of working together as a “team” in their marriage and decided they wanted to do this as a team also. They took many classes together and became part of the DAT team. Their first day of training consisted of a fire where nothing but a chimney was left and after just getting home were immediately called to respond to another fire - talk about being thrown into the fire! Debbie became a part of the Board of Directors and Ed became a part of the Radio guys along with serving on the DAT team.

When the county chapters consolidated Debbie was the Vice Chairman of the Board and helped with various fundraising events. Debbie served as Chairman of the Board for 2 years and continues to serve as just a “plain” Board Member now.

Ed and Debbie served on DAT teams until December 2006 when they needed a break and now continue to volunteer in various capacities and will willingly serve for any major disasters. The beer cart drivers at the Heinze golf

tournament is one of their favorite things to do each year to help the Chapter.

As their children grew and got ready to go to college this has been a great thing to do together as a couple. It is a great thing to be able to help others while having fun together. They look forward to many more years to serving the Chapter.

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*In last month's Newsletter, I had in small print, near the bottom of the Newsletter, "If you read this, Email me, "Yes, I did!" I put everyone's name who emailed into a hat, and I pulled out a winner.*

*AND THE WINNER IS "Jan Buttler"*

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**"Meet the Staff"**  
**Bob "Bunky" Gretton**  
**Volunteer Coordinator**

"April 1 is my one-year anniversary with the American Red Cross; I so much enjoy working with sharing, caring volunteers. You are the ones that make it happen," says Bob. As volunteer coordinator for the Southern Maryland Chapter, Bob plays his role well. Bob is a "people person" and is always adding comedy to the daily routine in the office with funny quips.

Bob is the father of three grown children, Kimberly, JB, and Andy. He and his wife, Teresa, have been married for over 38 years. They have been Charles Countians since 1971.

After Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast a top executive at CNN Headline News came up with the idea of creating an organization to bring together comic relief through the talents of the clown arts community. Red Nose Response was founded: <http://www.rednoserelief.org>. The mission of the group is to effectively provide support and smiles to not only survivors, but other response agencies that have individuals involved in recovery operations. Bob was contacted to become Vice President of Relief Organization Liaison and find a relief organization to partner with. He met with Mike Zabko and a Statement of Understanding was put together. Now, clowns in 46 states volunteer for Red Cross service and provide Smiles to the Rescue servicing local single-family house fires to national disasters, wherever comic relief is needed.

Bob studied the art of clowning in May of 1977 at the Circus Hall of Fame, Sarasota, FL. In the 1980s, he and his wife produced their own

children's programming show on local cable television (ChasoVision), called *Clowning Around with Bunky*. They have appeared on the Daily Show with Jon Stewart on the Comedy Central Channel. Other highlights include performing at the White House, Capitol Building, and the Kennedy Center.

In 2007, Bob received a commission from the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a member of **The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels**. He received this honor for the work he accomplished in partnering Red Nose Response with Red Cross. Recognized as being an Ambassador of Joy and Goodwill, the list of Colonels include Jimmy Durante, Bill Clinton, Bing Crosby, Mae West, Bob Barker, Muhammad Ali, Bob Hope, Winston Churchill, and Elvis Presley, to name a few. Bob also served 39 years with the Washington Redskins Marching Band as a saxophonist.

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This month's reader's game!  
Email me the name of the Capitol of South Dakota  
I will put everyone's name in a hat and pick a winner!

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### **National Headquarters History**

#### **National Headquarters Tours Include Red Cross History and Artwork**

The next time you or your family is in Washington, D.C., be sure to include a tour of the historic American Red Cross national headquarters at 430 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. among your sightseeing destinations. The building was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1965. Tours last approximately one hour and include a brief history of the Red Cross and a look at the building's architecture, artwork and artifacts.

To arrange a tour, please contact Michelle Risinger at (202) 303-7066; [tours@usa.redcross.org](mailto:tours@usa.redcross.org). For more information about the tour program or to make a reservation online please visit [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org) and click on the Museum link.

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### **Clara Barton home in Glen Echo, Maryland**

Clara Barton National Historic Site commemorates the life of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. The home served as the headquarters and warehouse for the organization. The house is shown by guided tour only. There is no admission charge, open everyday, Tours start on the hour: 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, Noon, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM. <http://www.nps.gov/clba>

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**“American Red Cross training  
It’s Easy & Convenient!”  
For all Health & Safety Classes  
and  
Disaster Classes  
Visit the website to sign up.**

**Disaster Training**

**Mass Care April 1<sup>st</sup> at the La Plata office**

The Red Cross provides Mass Care during and after a Disaster, caring for the people of Southern Maryland with mobile feeding and distributing supplies. On April 1<sup>st</sup> at the La Plata office I will be teaching the class on Mass Care. We need volunteers to be prepared. Please don’t wait until it’s too late.

**Disaster Action Team April 9th at the Calvert Library**

The Chapter’s biggest need is in the Disaster Action Team. Volunteers who can respond to single-family house fires. Offering Hard and Soft Assistances, showing empathy. It is a rewarding job. Seeing the look in the people’s eyes. Hearing them say, “I can’t believe the Red Cross would come.” In this class, we go over the paperwork, how to listen, what to say, how to be the face of the Red Cross. It is the greatest gift you can give to your fellow man.....April 9th at the Calvert Library

**Training for New Volunteers for the American Red Cross, Fairview library in Owings. April 23**

Fulfilling Our Mission, this class enables a volunteer to translate their care and compassion into community action. It will help the volunteer to assess how to use their skills and abilities to better serve people affected by disaster. We address how the Red Cross prepares for and responds to the citizens.

**Go to <http://southernmaryland.redcross.org>**

**Click on Red Cross Services**

**Click on Classes**

**Go to bottom of the page,**

**Click on Online class registration or Online calendar**

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**Wear the **Colors**, Show your Pride!**

We now have ARC Shirts in different colors (**red**, **white**, and **blue**), Hats, Jackets, and First Aid Supplies for purchase at Chapter Headquarters! Please contact Diane at 1-888-276-2767.

