



# Southern Maryland Chapter Volunteer Newsletter Feb. 2008

*You are Committed, Compassionate, and the Heart and Soul  
of the Southern Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross.*

## **Who We Are:**

The Southern Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross serves the citizens living in the Tri-County area. Our original charter was issued in November 1917. Our 90 years of continuous service have been provided by YOU, our volunteers. Red Cross volunteers provide the leadership, strength and energy to the chapter. “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. *Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*”



## **Time to Remember**

The worst tornado in Maryland history ripped through the region on April 28, 2002, destroying more than 600 homes and buildings, including the local Red Cross chapter. **This was our Chapter Headquarters**, hit by an F-4 tornado that bore winds of more than 210 mph.

## **Oktoberfest in March?**

*Why not, they hold  
Christmas in July!!!*

*Celebrate National Red Cross Month  
with  
Bratwurst, Beer and Bavarian Music  
Saturday, March 15th, 2008  
12:00 to 6:00pm*

March is Red Cross Month, a time to celebrate the spirit of Red Cross employees, volunteers and donors who support critical needs across America.

The Red Cross draws its very identity from the millions of everyday heroes who donate their time, blood and financial resources to the organization. Whether you're a blood donor, a financial donor, volunteer or community partner – the American Red Cross celebrates **YOU** as one of Southern Maryland's Hometown Heroes who make it possible for us to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies.

Please join us, March 15, 2008, on the Point at Calvert Marina for a day of food and festivity. Ticket price includes a meal of your choice of Bratwurst (with or without the works), Hamburger or Hot Dog, German Potato Salad and choice of soda or water. Both German and American Beer will be available for purchase.

Entertainment provided by Washingtonia Bavarian Dance Group

**Ticket prices**  
**\$25.00 per adult**  
**\$15.00 children ages 13 to 16**  
**Children under 12 are free**  
**Tickets available at the door or for Reservations Call**  
**301-934-2066 ☐ 888-276-2767**  
**Fax: 301-753-4042**

*Red Cross Reminds You~ Please Drink Responsibly*

**We are in need of Volunteers**  
**to be part of a very special elite team.**

***The Disaster Action Team***

In 2007, volunteers of our Disaster Action Team responded to over 90 house and apartment fires in the Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert. People helping people whose lives have changed in an instant by fire. For more information on joining the Team call Greg Jones, 888-276-2767 or email at [GregJ@SOMDRedCross.org](mailto:GregJ@SOMDRedCross.org)

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**Spotlight on a Volunteer**

*Each month we spotlight a Volunteer.*

*This month it's*  
**\* Sheila Kay \***

For the past sixteen years Sheila has been a volunteer with the Charles County Chapter of the American Red Cross, today referred to as the Southern Maryland Chapter. Her career has been in the Medical Food Service field, as a Certified Dietary Manager, designing special diets for people with health problems. This experience in food service led to Mass Feeding within the Red Cross, and being on called during County disasters.

For many years her catering equipment was the only equipment the local Red Cross had to use. From 100 cup coffee urns, to coolers or Cambro's to transport food, ice etc. This was before there were any ERV's or Chapter vehicles. All Red Cross Food Supplies were stored at her home. Today Sheila's career has led her to teach in the inner city. Sheila teaches job skills to the less fortunate in the Anacostia and Congress Heights areas, and has recently enrolled as an instructor with the Red Cross.

Mass Care and Sheltering Instructor through the DSHR System, FA/CPR/AED Instructor, trained to Administer Small Disasters, and as an ERV Driver, Sheila performs many services for the ARC. Sheila was part of Mass Feeding during the Ice Storm of Charles County. In 1996, she opened three shelters and managed Mass Feeding at all three during Hurricane Bertha. The Tornado of 2002, Sheila opened the Mass Feeding at Thomas Stone High School.

She worked Hurricane Katrina / Rita in 2005, operating the ERV's and as RC Staff Shelter Manager In 2006 during Tropical Storm Ernesto, Sheila drove to Mobile Alabama to transport meals to Orlando and Tampa. Sheila teaches the ServSafe National Sanitation Certification Course throughout the Mid-Atlantic States. She teaches at the University of D.C. and through United planning Organization, while teaching Bible 101 classes out of her home. Sheila is extremely committed to her faith and feeds the homeless on a regular basis, in Charles County, DC and Baltimore. She is currently involved in the start up of a Woman's Transitional Housing Project for the tri county area that will be opening in 2008. Sheila is the mother of six children and four grandchildren, "helping the less fortunate, and assisting those in trouble is what She does. Sheila said "it fuels me!" And I am extremely proud to be associated with the American Red Cross.

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***Attention all Volunteers***  
***Have you had your Parental Release Form signed?***  
***If NO, then What?***

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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>



## **“Meet the Staff”**

***This month is Alice Pitcher,  
Heart and Soul of the Prince Frederick office***

Alice began working for the American Red Cross in November 2001 at the St. Mary’s County Chapter in Leonardtown and Patuxent River Naval Air Station as Administrative Assistant. It was a very busy time since September 11 had just occurred, then in 2002 the tornado that devastated La Plata. When the three (3) counties consolidated in 2003 and became the

Southern Maryland Chapter, Alice worked in the offices at Leonardtown and Pax River administering the Combined Funds Campaign, Office of Personnel Management, and other chapter related duties. She transferred to Prince Frederick office in 2004 as Health & Safety Specialist, became an instructor, working every day to keep the community prepared.

***Alice’s motto is***

***“Rather than wait for the storm to pass, we need to learn to dance in the rain”***

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

When the time comes and we are asked to open a Shelter, are you ready? Have you taken Shelter Operations? What do you get out of the course? For one, you get a 51 page Shelter operation handbook, detailing all the key responsibilities of working at a shelter. You also learn the effective and sensitive way to work as a team member in a shelter. **Shelter Operations on February 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm – 9:30pm at Chapter Headquarters**

**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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**Mark your Calendar, Call Center On-Line**

The Call Center will be on-line, Wed. March, 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm.  
We need volunteers to man the phones. It’s on the job training. For those of you that have done the CC in the past, you will find that the process and phone system has been made easier. Please call Teresa at 301-379-6771 or [TeresaG@somdredcross.org](mailto:TeresaG@somdredcross.org)

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**Disaster Training**

In the coming months, we are going to offer  
**Client Casework: Providing Emergency Assistance.** The class objective include:  
performing an effective interview, Understanding the basic forms for Chapter, multi-chapter, and National Disaster Relief operations, and how to assist people who have had a disaster.

We will post the dates on our web site and in the Newsletter.

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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.

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**Build a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Red Cross Ready**