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American Red Cross
Midland/Gladwin Chapter

Chapter Chatter

November 1, 2004 Midland, MI Volume 1

New Board Chair Thanks Midland Chapter Volunteers

Dear Friends of the American Red Cross:

As the new Board Chair for 2004-2005, I'd like to take a moment to tell you about the Midland/Gladwin Chapter's most valuable resource, its volunteers.

Behind all of the Chapter's programs—fundraising, disaster relief, and our Board—you will find volunteers.

I thank all of you for your time and hard work. Your dedication keeps the vital services going and our communities prepared, so that **Together, We Can Save a Life.**

Our Chapter is in constant need of new volunteers and we encourage the many gifted and talented people in our towns to come forward and help us make a difference. With just a few hours a month, or to be a resource for your community in a time of need, you can help us in our many responsibilities. With our military on continuing duty, is one of the best ways to support our troops.

As our Chapter moves forward, the role of the Red Cross gets ever more important not just nationally, but right here in Midland, Gladwin, Coleman, Beaverton, and Sanford.

As new faces come to our towns and communities, the work of our volunteers is the rock that allows us to continue the mission of our Chapter. Please contact the office at 631-3262, ext. 13 to volunteer the most valuable commodity, time.

Thank you,

Brian Mowry
Board Chair

Midland Volunteers Respond, Aid Florida Hurricane Victims

Writer: Mary Koskela,
Director of Emergency Services

Beginning in August of this past year, Midland/Gladwin disaster response volunteers accepted disaster relief assignments in the Southeastern United States.

Their mission was to fulfill the Red Cross promise to the nation that *We'll Be There* to assist those whose lives were devastated by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.

Les Varner, Kevin Bamum, Gary Purcell, Rudy Phillips, and Cindy Pauley were the volunteers who put the well being of others above their own and responded to multiple assignments in various locations in Florida and Alabama.

Brian Scoles, Community Services Director for the Midland/Gladwin Chapter responded to the call as a staff member.

Kevin and Rudy's efforts were concentrated on logistical support operations, making certain that resources were secured and available for the numerous kitchens and Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) that were responsible for providing food to victims as well as Red Cross staff and other emergency workers associated with the disaster operations.

Cindy Pauley and Gary Purcell were assigned to the ERVs to make



Photo by: Brian Scoles

Pierson, FL

Red Cross Volunteers at a food and distribution site where locals are given hot meals, water, and basic supplies that included toiletries. Families could also get supplies for babies too.

certain that the food was distributed to those in need. Both of them easily put hundreds of miles on their vehicles each day.

Les Varner dealt with the victims face-to-face as he attempted to help them fulfill their emergency needs and provided the resources to help them through the Family Services function.

Brian Scoles had the responsibility of getting important and timely relief activity information out to victims through his work in Public Affairs. He also helped to keep the rest of the country informed through radio spots and interviews. We hope to be able to provide highlights and personal stories from these volunteers on our website very soon!

We cannot thank these volunteers enough for putting their own lives on hold to help others in our country at a time when they needed it the most.

Staff Members
Dick Fosgitt, Interim Executive Director
Mary Koskela, Emergency Services Director
Jill Dougherty, Health & Safety Services Director
Brian Scoles, Community & Volunteer Service Director
Mike Zink, Worksite Director
Judy Leach, H.E.L.P. Coordinator
Angie Weintritt, Office Assistant
Kendra Mueller, Health & Safety Assistant

Red Cross Helps Thousands In Florida

Writer: Brian Scoles, Community/Volunteer Services Director

Six-year old Santos Arreola had been working alongside his father since 6:00 a.m. Sunday morning, September 12, 2004. His mission was to help relieve the suffering of thousands of immigrant workers and other residents in Pierson, Florida and the surrounding areas, who were affected by Hurricane Frances. Young Arreola was handing out basic supplies to people in their cars who had patiently inched their way forward in a long line leading into the parking lot of Taylor Middle High School in Pierson.



Photo by: Brian Scoles

Volunteer

Santos Arreola volunteer's to help the residents of Pierson and the surrounding areas. Arreola hands out basic supplies to cars going to the middle school.

A few yards away, wearing a Red Cross Disaster Services vest, retiree Fred Bisson was passing out coloring books and crayons to families with children. Bisson who moved to

the area from New Hampshire two years ago, says he wasn't affiliated with the Red Cross chapter but had decided it was time to get involved in the community and had simply shown up to help.

These are just two examples of what volunteers, regardless of age, can do to assist those in need.

Many first-time and experienced chapter volunteers, responded to assist the victims of this year's unprecedented hurricane season.

You can shape future Red Cross relief by calling the chapter to learn how you can make a difference in the lives of those who are hurting.

Be Prepared for the Unthink-

Writer: Jill Dougherty, Health and Safety Services Director

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) can happen anytime, anywhere and to anyone. It claims the lives of 220,000 people in this country every year. When SCA strikes, seconds mean the difference between life and death. With each minute of elapsed time before defibrillation, the survival rate of the victim diminishes by 10%.

Thanks to an easy to use portable device called an automated external defibrillator (AED) and training from your American Red Cross, ordinary people can be lifesavers. Immediate use of an AED, in conjunction with CPR, could save 50,000 lives a year.

The Midland/Gladwin Chapter is pleased to announce our partnership with two of the leading AED manufacturers! All you need to place an order is a prescription from your doctor and \$2200. By placing your order with us, a portion of your purchase price will be used locally to further our mission of "Help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies."

We also encourage everyone to enroll in a CPR and First Aid class. Our CPR classes teach students the correct way to treat unconsciousness, choking, no breathing and no pulse. We also teach automated external defibrillator (AED) skills in every CPR course. Our first aid classes teach participants how to treat the following: heat and cold emergencies, severe bleeding, shock, head injuries, bites and stings and more! Enroll today because "Help Can't Wait."

CLASS SCHEDULE

Adult CPR/AED and Child & Infant CPR

Nov 16 & 18 6 pm – 10:30 pm
 Nov 30 and Dec 2 6 pm – 10:30 pm
 Dec 6 & 8 6 pm – 10:30 pm



First Aid

Nov 29 6 pm – 10 pm
 Dec 9 6 pm – 10 pm

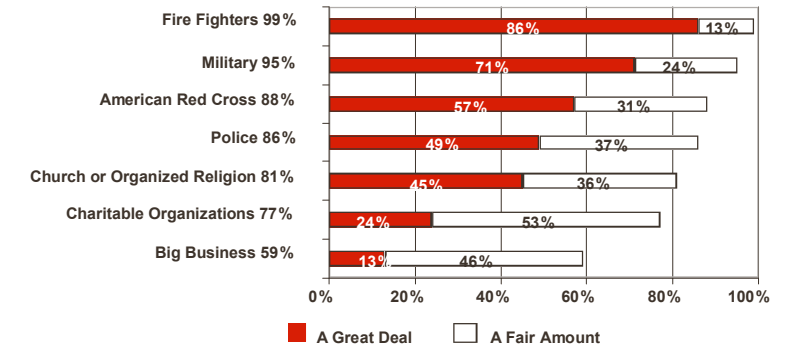
****Our 2005 class dates will be available in December 2004. Or, we can schedule special classes for groups of 6 – 12 students.

The staff at the Midland/Gladwin Chapter encourages positive community input. Please feel free to submit your comments to the editor by email at bscoles@redcross-midglad.org, or in person.

Just beginning your Christmas Shopping? Looking for a unique gift that will never lose its value? The Midland/Gladwin Chapter can help. Come in and see our large selection of first aid kits, CPR supplies, and shirts.

Americans Trust the Red Cross

Confidence in Institutions



Omnibus telephone survey of 1,001 U.S. adults aged 18 or older fielded pro bono by Wirthlin Worldwide, September 24-27, 2004. Margin of error is +/- 3.5 percent at the 95% confidence level.

A recent telephone survey completed for the American Red Cross free of charge showed very high confidence in the American Red Cross. Scores for a number of institutions are in the chart above.

Red Cross Everyday Heroes Awards Dinner

Writer: Angie Weintritt, Office Assistant

The Midland/Gladwin Chapter of the American Red Cross will be hosting the 5th Everyday Heroes Recognition Dinner on Thursday, March 3, 2005.

The concept for the Everyday Heroes recognition is an event that is closely related to the mission of the American Red Cross to help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Proceeds from the event are used to support the Mid-

land/Gladwin Chapter of the Red Cross. This support assists our Chapter in providing many important programs to our communities.

We are currently accepting nominations for Everyday Heroes recognition. Heroes can be nominated by completing a nomination form, which can be obtained by calling Angie Weintritt at 989-631-3262.

To obtain tickets to the event, or to request sponsorship information, please contact Angie Weintritt.

Chapter Takes a New Direction

Community Needs to Express Their Ideas and Wants to Direc-

tor: Dick Fosgitt, Interim Executive Director

The Midland/Gladwin Chapter is about to embark on a new phase that will take it from its 87th year of service to the community, well into the future; the development and implementation of a strategic plan.

Putting onto paper the ideas and plans that will make this Chapter more successful is not an easy task, but it is a necessary one.

On a larger scale, chapter strategic plans must be consistent with and

tightly aligned to the American Red Cross Strategic Plan and reflective of mission-related community needs.

Given this information, I encourage your input in this process. What do you feel the Chapter should look like five years from now? Please submit your ideas by December 1st, 2004, to our Chapter Communicator, Brian Scoles, either at his email address: bscoles@redcross-midglad.org, or by mail: American Red Cross, Midland/Gladwin Chapter, 220 W. Main St., Midland, MI 48640

Meet the Leaders

2004 Board:

- Brian Mowry, Chair
- Darrell Debenham, Chair H.R.
- Therese Ashmore, Secretary
- Nancy Collins, V.C. Programs/Svcs
- Mike Krecek, V.C Administration
- Cindy Pauley, Treasurer
- Ann Buzanowski,
- Dan Duke
- Larry Leach
- Gaye Terwilligar
- Flo Blahunka
- Joy E. Buchanan
- Lee Garcia
- Jim Malek
- Jim Nigro
- Jim Trahan
- Mary Griffore
- Dana Gibbs
- Teresa Sullivan
- Robert McNett
- David Pierce
- Carol VanSluyters
- Aubrey McCullen

Teens Get Involved

Teens Working Interactively Showing Teamwork (T.W.I.S.T), is a premier group of Midland teens who make volunteer service a priority. T.W.I.S.T. participates in several community projects each year. The group has members from the different area schools.

In addition to their normal schedules, the group regularly gets involved in Pet Pals Therapy, Safety Town, Adopt-a-Park, holiday meals for those in need, and tray favors for hospitalized veterans.

The T.W.I.S.T. group is actively seeking new members. If you know of a youth looking to make a difference, contact Brian Scoles, Director of Volunteer Services.

Call for Volunteers

Our local Disaster Action Teams are in need of new volunteers. For more information, contact Mary Koskela, Emergency Services Director at 631-3262, ext. 14.