



In Touch

Midland / Gladwin Chapter

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March is Red Cross Month

Each year since 1943, the president of the United States proclaims March as Red Cross month. March is Red Cross Month gives the Red Cross an opportunity to promote its services and celebrate its successes in serving communities across the country.

“Our vital work is made possible by people like you who can learn how good it can feel to lend a helping hand.”

During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson ordered the American Red Cross to raise funds to support aid to the military and civilians affected by the war as mandated by Congress. At that time, the American Red Cross set a goal of \$125 million and in less than six weeks donations totaled nearly \$146 million. This success caused the Red Cross to repeat the March drive during the remaining years of the war and to make it the occasion for

annual membership and fund-raising efforts ever since. As in years past, this year we focus on the contributions the

American Red Cross has made to communities across the country, as well as the role that the Red Cross plays internationally.

Some vital statistics about the Red Cross include:

- Each year the American Red Cross responds to an estimated 70,000 disasters, including house and apartment fires and other natural and human-caused disasters.

- In 2007, the Red Cross helped handle the largest evacuation in California history during the devastating wildfires, by providing more than 30,000 overnight stays in shelters and more than 360,000 meals.

(cont. on page 7)

From the Executive Director:

The snow may still be falling, but I can feel spring coming around the corner. Our communities have certainly experienced winter weather at its worst this season. Was your family prepared for the ice and snow? Did you know that spring rain not only brings flowers, but the potential for flooding too? Did you know that the American Red Cross is working hard year round preparing to respond to potential community disasters?

Interested in learning more about *your* community Red Cross Chapter? Ever wonder what other programs the Red Cross offers? Join

us for **Red Cross Live**, a one-hour informational tour about the services provided in Midland and Gladwin Counties. You will even receive free refreshments and a first aid kit! **Red Cross Live** will take place in Conference Room 110 at the Strosacker Center, 220 W. Main St., Midland.

Upcoming events:

- Wednesday, March 12, 2008 @ 8:00 a.m.
- Thursday, March 20, 2008 @ 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 9, 2008 @ 8:00 a.m.
- Thursday, April 24, 2008 @ 12:00 p.m.

- Wednesday, May 14, 2008 @ 8:00 a.m.
- Thursday, May 22, 2008 @ 12:00 p.m.

At the Gladwin County United Way Community Services Building, 234 W. Cedar, Gladwin on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Register Today! Call (989) 631-3262 or (989) 426-7732

For more information visit: <http://midland-gladwin.redcross.org>

I hope you will be able to attend.

Sincerely,
Patricia Tiernan
Executive Director

Around the World in Wine

Wine Tasting & Silent Auction

Benefiting Disaster Services of the
American Red Cross Midland/Gladwin Chapter

April 10, 2008 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Northwood University NADA Center

Come sample wines from regions all over the world
exquisitely paired with fine cuisine.

Music presented by *Musique de Chambre*

Tickets \$40 each or \$75 per couple
For more information, call (989) 631-3262 ext. 102
Visit <http://midland-gladwin.redcross.org>



Enroll in a lifesaving CPR and First Aid Class Today!

Imagine you are driving home and become unconscious due to cardiac arrest. Your car goes into the ditch. The person driving the car behind you stops to help. She is a registered nurse and begins CPR within one minute of you becoming unconscious. Wouldn't it be nice if in every cardiac arrest situation that a trained responder would be nearby?

You can help make this story, which is true by the way, become a recurring reality, rather than a rarity. The American Red Cross urges all Americans to be prepared for anything by completing three steps: Get a Kit, Make a Plan, and Be Informed. We call this being **Red Cross Ready**. We encourage each family to embrace the Be Informed step by training at least one household member in first aid and CPR skills.

Now back to the story – the driver of the second car behind our victim of cardiac arrest also



stopped to render aid. She is an AED (automated external defibrillator) salesperson and has a live AED in her vehicle. A lifesaving shock is delivered and the victim in this story is now a survivor.

While we don't recommend that people carry a live AED in their vehicle, the American Red Cross does promote having an AED in any facility/area where large groups of people gather. This could be your church, school, workout facility, golf course, or other sporting arena, etc. It is important to have AED's nearby, as each minute defibrillation is delayed, chances of survival decrease by 10%. AED's are easy to use and maintain. People now have the option of purchasing one to keep in their home. The Midland / Gladwin Chapter can assist you with your purchase of an AED for a business or home.

Please contact our chapter today for more information at (989) 631-3262 or visit us on the web at:

<http://midland-gladwin.redcross.org>

EDAP

The Emergency Dental Assistance Program has gotten off to a busy start for 2008. The number of requests for emergency dental assistance has increased 50 percent for the same time period in 2007.

EDAP assists income-eligible Midland County residents with *emergency dental* treatment. For additional information call 631-3262, Ext. 106.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those dentists in our community that work with our program.

Without their willingness to accept our authorizations and work those individuals with an emergency need into their schedule, we would not be able to assist those experiencing dental pain or infections in a timely manner.

Thank you.

Judy Leach,
EDAP Coordinator

Health & Safety Class Schedule

Adult, Child & Infant CPR

Review w/AED: Prerequisite:
current non-expired certification

This class provides students the opportunity to update their Adult/AED, child & infant CPR certification. Topics include rescue breathing, choking, CPR, and Adult AED skills.

Cost: \$25 tuition ~ \$42.50 if books are needed

Time: 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm

April 14	M
April 30	W
May 8	Th
May 19	M
June 10	T
June 26	Th

First Aid only:

This class will teach how to handle a variety of emergencies, including shock, bleeding, muscle injuries, heat & cold emergencies, severe bleeding, bites and stings, and burns.

Cost: \$30

Time: 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

April 28	M
June 11	W

Babysitter's Training:

Prerequisite: must be at least 11 years old

Students learn the business of babysitting plus leadership, accident prevention, basic care, first aid, and professionalism.

Cost: \$40 (includes textbook)

Wed., April 2	9 am - 2 pm
Thurs., April 3	9 am - 2 pm

Adult/AED, Child, Infant CPR & First Aid:

Students will learn CPR, Rescue Breathing, Choking, and Adult AED skills, plus all of the skills included in the first aid class.

Cost: \$65

Time: 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm

April 8 & 10	T/Th
April 21 & 23	M/W
May 5 & 7	M/W
May 13 & 15	T/Th
June 3 & 5	T/Th
June 16 & 18	M/W

Adult CPR/AED only:

This class covers care for adult (ages 12 & up) emergencies only. Students will learn how to respond to an emergency, choking skills, CPR, and AED skills.

Cost: \$30

Time: 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm

April 15	T
May 20	T

CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers:

(8 hours) This class is designed for individuals delivering health care and/or assuring public safety. This class teaches adult, child, infant and 2 person CPR. It also includes the proper use of a pocket and bag valve mask. **Students are required to have their own pocket mask (\$14)**

Cost: \$55 (includes textbook)

Time: 6 pm - 10 pm

Call for class dates.

Have You Ever Wondered Who Responds to Disaster Assistance Calls?

Disaster Assistance is a mandated program that each and every Red Cross chapter in this country has to be prepared to offer around the clock. Whether it is to respond to a single family fire or a community-wide disaster such as flooding, a tornado touchdown or other disastrous event, American Red Cross Disaster Assistance is available 24 hours per day; 7 days a week; 52 weeks per year. Have you ever wondered who from our Chapter gets those late night, early morning or Christmas Eve calls and alerts the team members when our help is needed for assisting families with their emergency needs when everything they owned has been destroyed or for assisting the emergency responders with refreshments and rehabilitation when the disaster is long and drawn out or the weather conditions are inclement?

The Midland/Gladwin Chapter is extremely fortunate to have three afterhours disaster response coordinators who take turns being on call for a two week

rotation period throughout the year. They are Kevin Barnum, LeRoy Taglauer and Rudy Phillips. All three have had extensive disaster training and actual work experience in both local and national disaster responses. All three carry a pager, so when they are alerted by Central Dispatch in either Midland or Gladwin County that Red Cross disaster assistance is being requested, they contact the volunteer disaster team that is “on-call” with them for that two week period and everyone meets at the chapter to assemble the needed items to professionally and quickly respond to the request for help. Our national headquarters mandate that we have a two hour window to respond to a disaster once the request is received. Sounds easy? Not often when you consider that most of our calls come at odd hours of the night or on weekends. To assemble volunteers from all over the county to get to the chapter, prepare to

respond, drive time (especially in Gladwin County), this is no easy feat. But, fortunately due to the dedication and professionalism of our after hours disaster response coordinators and the Disaster Action Team members, this is accomplished.

Sometimes our presence at the scene is no more than one to two hours and sometimes we are there for a lengthier period of time. This is often not easy when many of our responders work 8-5 on a daily basis!

So, the next time you hear a siren in the late evening, early morning hours or on a holiday that you are enjoying with family and friends, think of these unselfish people and consider thanking them for what they do. They are the heart and soul of the American Red Cross Disaster Response system.

In addition to Kevin, LeRoy and Rudy, our Disaster Action Teams include:

Lon Baker
Gene Dickens
Jeanne Ely
Don Jackson
Frank Malczewski
Marilea Levine
Angie Weintritt

Terry Chrivia
Jane Rowley-Smith
Cheryl Weeks-Rosten
Cindy Pauley
Marylyn Shaffer
Marcia Shannon
Larry Quinn

Bob Fahlsing
Mike Juhasz
Paul Schultz
Les Varner
Jan List
Christopher Noonan
Linda Parent

Martha Young
Jean Langrill
Evonne Lamson
Joan Hannah
Geoff List
Kate Barnum
Thank You, All!

Volunteering Has Its Rewards

Volunteering for the American Red Cross was an integral part of Geneva Plakke's life. In fact, it dominated half her life having served over 50 years as a Red Cross volunteer. Although she would still like to be actively participating as a volunteer, at the age of 100 issues with vision no longer allow her to do so.

However, if you were to visit her apartment one would see her achievement rewards proudly displayed.

Geneva, mother of four, began to volunteer as a donor aide with the Red Cross blood program in Lansing - that was in 1951.

For 30 years she supervised a team of donor aid volunteers-60 at the height of the program. She traveled throughout Ingham County establishing blood mobiles for those areas without blood programs. In addition to her work with the blood program, Geneva was also a CPR/First Aid and Babysitting Instructor, sent messages overseas by the now-extinct Teletype, recorded taped messages from families of homesick soldiers and sent packages, worked with families in need of

assistance after having lost their possessions in a house fire, and setup and manned the First Aid trailer at local county fairs.

She was an avid gardener and always enjoyed sharing her vegetables with the staff at the Red Cross chapter.

In 1986 Geneva moved to Midland. For many years she continued to assist the Red Cross by volunteering for the local Midland/Gladwin Chapter.

Red Cross was a familiar name in the Plakke household, family members participated in packing military boxes, rolling bandages, donating blood, etc. The respect for the American Red Cross and its mission and services was a family value. Her two daughters have been involved in volunteering for the Red Cross for a number of

years, her granddaughter became a CPR instructor,

a grandson volunteered assistance during the Midland flood of 1986, her sons supported Red Cross financially and during national disaster situations Geneva would collect donations at her senior

residence.

Volunteering for the American Red Cross is a rewarding opportunity to share your skills and talents with an organization that reaches out to those in need. Over 97% of all American Red Cross staff are volunteers, approximately 1.2 million people volunteer for the Red Cross. The American Red Cross performs a critical role in our Nation and world by providing aid and support to those in urgent need - consider becoming a volunteer. Call the Chapter, 631-3262, Ext. 105, to find out where you fit in.



Mrs. Geneva Plakke

March is **Red Cross** Month (cont.)

- Approximately 1.2 million people volunteer for the American Red Cross and volunteers make up 97% of all American Red Cross staff.

- Red Cross staff members deploy with our Armed Forces to provide emergency communications and a caring presence to service men and women separated from their families.

- Nearly 11 million people have enrolled in training courses that range from first aid and CPR, to water safety, and use of automated external defibrillators that can save the lives of victims of sudden cardiac arrests.

- Internationally, The Red Cross is also helping to

ensure a healthier future for millions of children and families worldwide by fighting measles, malaria and HIV/AIDS.

Our vital work is made possible by people like you who can learn how good it can feel to lend a helping hand. Red Cross volunteers provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

Also, find out what you can do today. Be Red Cross Ready! It is 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...

- ◆ **Get A Kit**
- ◆ **Make a Plan**
- ◆ **Be Informed**

For more information, contact your local American Red Cross Chapter, at (989) 631-3262 or in Gladwin at (989) 426-7732 or check out our website at

<http://midland-gladwin.redcross.org>.

Joy Buchanan

Board Chair

MISSION STATEMENT:

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization, led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

Office Staff:

Patricia Tiernan,
Executive Director

Mary Koskela,
Emergency Services
Director

Jill Dougherty,
Health & Safety Director

Laurie Hardy,
Community & Volunteer
Services Coordinator

Mike Zink,
Worksite Coordinator

Judy Leach,
EDAP Coordinator
Office Professional

Kendra Mueller,
Health & Safety Assistant



**American
Red Cross**

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Serving Midland and Gladwin Counties



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