



**American Red Cross**  
Midland/Gladwin Chapter

*Special Edition: Everyday Heroes*

# Chapter Chatter

**February 14, 2004 Midland, MI Vol-**

## **By Way of Introduction**

We are proud to introduce our new Executive Director, Patricia Tiernan.



Patricia, a Michigan native, joins the Red Cross team from Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she performed successfully as the Director of Development for Neighborhood Senior Services.

A graduate of Michigan State University in Social Science Public Policy, Patricia brings a wealth of administrative and managerial experience to the chapter as well as first hand knowledge of the dynamic forces that affect the operation of non-profit agencies.

Known throughout the State as a strong marketer and networker, Patricia has the skills necessary to further the mission of the American Red Cross.

The chapter board and staff warmly welcome Patricia Tiernan to Midland/Gladwin Chapter and the American Red Cross family.

## **Executive Director**

It is with great honor that I begin my work for the American Red Cross Midland/Gladwin Chapter. My role as Executive Director will include the operational planning, coordination and implementation of the mission of the American Red Cross. For our community, this means continuing core services of providing relief to victims of disaster, and helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. I look forward to this charge and hope to continue the

great legacy of the last 88 years of the American Red Cross here in Midland and Gladwin Counties.

It has been an impressive start for me seeing the outpouring of humanity and generosity our community displayed toward the tsunami disaster victims. The response has been overwhelming.

The American Red Cross Tsunami Relief Fund reached the fundraising target within 30 days of starting the campaign, of which a little over \$184,000 has been received and processed through the Midland/Gladwin Chapter alone. However, our work is not done. The possibility of local disasters is eminent. In January, our chapter responded to three fires and three mass care operations.

Tornado season and spring rains are just around corner, and the residents in our communities will continue to lean on the Midland/Gladwin Chapter to assist in their emergencies. We will continue to rely on your generosity to make each response possible.

Sincerely,

Patricia Tiernan

## **Board Chair**

Dear Community Stakeholders,

It is my pleasure, as board chair, to welcome Patricia Tiernan to our community, our chapter and the American Red Cross. As a resident in the Midland/Gladwin area, I am a stakeholder, as all of you are, in the well-being of my community. As a stakeholder, I will assist Patricia with the responsibility of meeting the

needs in my community.

The communities within Midland and Gladwin Counties are great places to live, work and raise a family. We who live here share a strong sense of good will and wish our friends and neighbors continued health and safety throughout the year.

As most people, we lead busy lives. We don't always have time to meet the needs of fellow citizens, so we donate our hard-earned money to charitable organizations. At the same time, we want to know that the money we give is being spent wisely.

When you give financially to the Red Cross, America's favorite charity, your gift will be used wisely and you will become a stakeholder in our community's well-being. In times of emergency, you will be able to provide relief first-hand. During times of global uncertainty, you will be able to support our loved ones in the military.

See Chairman, page 2

## **A Fond Farewell**

When asked, he answered, and provided the leadership necessary to pilot this chapter through an uncertain time.

Stepping aside from his voluntary position as Board Treasurer and into a full-time position as Interim Executive Director, Dick Fosgitt didn't realize what he was getting into: "As a board member, I thought I knew about the Red Cross, but sitting in the head chair, brought me face-to-face with the wide variety of functions performed by the Red Cross at both the local and national levels...I took it for granted that assistance was readily

See Farewell, page 2

# Chapter To Celebrate 5th Annual Everyday Heroes Awards Banquet

Occurring March 3, 2005

The Midland/Gladwin chapter is excited to announce the upcoming Everyday Heroes Awards Banquet.

The concept for the Everyday Heroes recognition has grown out of a desire to develop an event that is closely related to the mission of the American Red Cross – **helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.**

Our mission is accomplished through a simple, yet powerful, process of one person putting his or her needs aside to help another.

Across the nation, over one million Red Cross volunteers do this each day. The Everyday Heroes program is a great way to celebrate this spirit of humanitarianism and honor those individuals who have shown courage, kindness, and unselfish character by their acts of heroism in the Midland and Gladwin communities.

Awards will be given in five categories: Adult Good Samaritan,



Photo by Richard Beehr Photography

### 2004 Award Recipients

From L to R: Dawn Nikolai, Leona Cobb for Carol Pearsall, Geneva Plakke, Pat Duvall for Dennis Schroeder, Angela Sweebe, Betty Jo Naugle

Workplace Good Samaritan, Emergency Response, Lifetime Achievement, and Life Saving.

Funds raised through this event will assist our chapter in meeting its financial obligations, ensuring that we will always be there when needed.

If you are interested in obtaining tickets, log on to our website at [www.midland-gladwin.redcross.org](http://www.midland-gladwin.redcross.org), or call 631-3262.

## Heroes Aren't Just Born, They Are Made

Writer: Brian Scoles, Director of Community & Volunteer Services

During his inaugural address, a recent president said: "We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we are in a time when there are no heroes just don't know where to look..." How right he was. Just look around you.

Last year, over 5,000 citizens in this community prepared, through chapter classes, to become heroes and rise above the fray when they are needed; then sink back among the masses to await the next call.

We are proud that our chapter takes the lead in making community

heroes—some of whom are professional rescuers, while others are simply preparing for emergencies because it's the right thing to do.

None of us know when a spouse or a child, a friend or a neighbor may need assistance. In just a few hours, you can learn how to save a life, administer first aid or CPR, or use an AED.

Become a hero. Get Prepared. Call today!

*Everyday Heroes nomination & sponsorship forms are available at the chapter or online at <http://midland-gladwin.redcross.org>.*

*Nominations are accepted year-round and are currently being considered for the 2006 banquet.*

### Chairman, from page 1

You could help people prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters by supporting our health and safety classes. Your donation to the local Red Cross Chapter empowers you to provide for your community. Remember us in your charitable giving plans.

As our Chapter moves forward in 2005, we will look to our community stakeholders to meet the needs here at home. Please, take time this year to share in the reward of building this unique organization's future.

Though people may come and go from within the organization, one principle remains constant – the American Red Cross will be here for our community.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Mowry

### Farewell, from page 1

available for those people in our community who needed it" said Fosgitt.

Through great adversity, Dick provided consistent leadership and financial guidance which enabled the chapter to continue the high-quality service the community has come to expect.

The transition between Executive Directors went seamlessly in the eyes of the community in which we serve.

We bid Dick a fond farewell as he leaves his position as Interim Director to, once again, join the ranks of our volunteers and resumes his responsibilities as Board Treasurer.

All of the staff members and the Board of Directors are grateful for Dick's hard work.

**Thank You!**

**Adult CPR/AED and Child & Infant CPR** 6 pm-10:30 pm

Feb 21 & 23  
Mar 8 & 10  
Mar 14 & 16  
Apr 18 & 20  
Apr 26 & 28



**Adult, Child & Infant CPR w/AED Review** 6 pm-10:30 pm

Feb 16  
Feb 24  
Mar 7  
Apr 12



**First Aid** 6 pm-10 pm

Feb 7    Mar 2    Apr 5  
Feb 22    Mar 22    Apr 25

See back panel for money saving coupon

**A Word From Our Congressman**

“Every day across our state there are citizens who perform extraordinary acts of kindness and heroism. It is appropriate that we remember and honor our ‘everyday heroes.’ I am proud of the Midland/Gladwin Chapter for highlighting the positive impact they make in our state and local communities.”



—Dave Camp, U.S. House of Representatives

**Another Kind of Hero**

*Writer: Mary Koskela, Emergency Services Director*

When the word “hero” is mentioned, most people automatically think of an individual who has shown great courage or someone admired for their achievement and noble qualities.

In Midland County, however, we have another kind of hero that diligently visits nursing homes, assisted care facilities, school classrooms and hospitals on a regular basis. These “heroes” are our “Pet Pals”



Therapy session at MidMichigan

Therapy Teams. Owners and their domesticated animals (in our case it is “dogs”) visit the above facilities as friendly visitors or to listen to children practice their reading skills. Presently, our teams visit Washington Woods, Alterra, The King’s Daughters Home and Stratford Village, as well as the pediatric, mental health and oncology units at MidMichigan Medical Center.

Upon a doctor’s request, teams may also visit individuals in other units as well. A few teams visit local classrooms to listen to and help out students with reading difficulties.

These “teams” go through a training and evaluation session before they are certified to become members of our local cadre. The training and certification fall under the auspices of Delta Society. Recertification is required every two years to make sure that both animal and owner remain at peak performance level.

If you would like more information on our teams or how to become a member, call Mary Koskela at 631-3262 X14.

**Reflections on Heroes**

*Writer: Brian Scoles, Director of Community & Volunteer Services*

Long gone are the days of great television heroes: the Lone Ranger patrolling the open range on his horse Silver; Zorro and his mastery of the sword; Superman, swooping down from the sky to save the day.

Gone as well are legendary leaders like Ronald Reagan, the last of the great statesman; Winston Churchill, a decisive leader for England during World War II; Mother Teresa and her compassion for all mankind.

We may no longer find suitable role-models on television or on the global stage, but we can look just around the corner, in our communities and find our neighbors and friends fulfilling that role.

The American Red Cross is an organization where heroes rise from among the volunteers and staff nearly every day. They drop their lives at a moments notice to assist a disaster victim across town or across the nation. They get up in the middle of the night, or leave their job in the middle of the day, to heed the cry of someone in need. Some acts benefit only one person at a fixed point in time, while others benefit thousands over the course of a lifetime.

Our heroes are extraordinary people. The following section will highlight this year’s nominees. Join us March 3rd at the Midland Holiday Inn to meet the heroes from our community and watch them receive the recognition they have earned.

### Nomination and Selection of Award Recipients

Writer: Angie Weintritt, Everyday Heroes Event Coordinator

The “Everyday Heroes” awards banquet is more than just another Red Cross program, it is a community event. Award recipients are nominated by their friends and neighbors and selected by a committee comprised of community members.

Nomination forms are distributed to various locations throughout the communities of Midland and Gladwin. They can also be obtained by contacting the Red Cross offices in Midland or Gladwin, or by visiting our website at [www.redcross-midglad.org](http://www.redcross-midglad.org). All nominations that adhere to the nomination criteria are considered.

The heroic action must have occurred from January 1-December 31 of the award recognition year. The event must have taken place in Midland or Gladwin County by either a resident or someone who works in our service area. A nomination form must be completed and submitted to the Red Cross office.

The selection committee is made up of a diverse group of community members. Selection committee members include individuals from business and industry and public service. Selection Committee members receive the nominations the week prior to their meeting in order to review the information. They then meet as a group to discuss their individual choices and reach consensus on which nominees should receive award recognition. The nominees are then contacted by phone of their selection

Any member of the Midland or Gladwin community is welcome to become a member of the Everyday Heroes selection committee.



# Everyday Heroes

### A Word About Everyday Heroes Recognition Dinner

Writer: Angie Weintritt

Although the Everyday Heroes recognition dinner is the major annual fundraiser for the Midland/Gladwin Chapter, there is another, more important focus of the event — to recognize individuals who have learned and applied life saving skills in an emergency situation.

The mission of the American Red Cross is to help people **prepare for and respond to emergencies**. This is what we strive to recognize at our event.

We never know when we will be called upon to save a life. However, we can prepare ourselves now with life saving skills and knowledge to hopefully, save a life should an emergency arise.

The individuals recognized at the Everyday Heroes event, learned those life saving skills at some time during their life, whether in a professional capacity, or as a lay person. This invaluable knowledge enabled them to act quickly, efficiently, and expertly when a life-threatening situation occurred.

Many of the award recipients indicate to us that no recognition is nec-

essary for the act they performed. We are told that “anyone would have done it”, or, “it was no big deal”, or, “I just happened to be there.” Their humility simply strengthens the spirit of the award ceremony.

We host the Everyday Heroes Recognition Dinner each year to highlight the fact that not just anybody **CAN** do it, and to that whose life was saved, it is a **VERY big deal**.

Think about this, if another person had been there that did not possess the necessary life saving skills, the outcome would have been much different.

The groups and individuals recognized at the Everyday Heroes dinner are important assets to the Midland and Gladwin communities and we are grateful for their involvement in assisting others.

### 2005 Award Recipients

#### Lifetime Achievement Herb Scogg

Herb Scogg first became involved with the American Red Cross in the late 1940's as a lifeguard in high school. Herb continued to be associated with swim teams and swim instruction throughout his college career, as an undergraduate at Bowling Green University and as a graduate student at West Virginia University.

Herb came to Midland in the fall of 1956 and began his lengthy association with the Midland County American Red Cross and the Midland community.

Herb has served the Midland community in many ways since 1956; as a physical education instructor and swim coach in the public school system, as Director of the Midland

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City Pools, as a swim instructor at Midland Community Center, as a Midland Public Schools Board member, a Rotary Club member and American Red Cross Board Member. Herb was the first water safety instructor trainer in Midland County and was a driving force in establishing and developing the American Red Cross swimming program in our community.

We believe Herb has indirectly saved thousands of lives by teaching the water safety instructors course in Midland for over 25 years and training numerous Midland area teenagers and young adults to become lifeguards and water safety instructors.

### **Lifesaving Award Peggy Smith**

In October of 2004, Peggy Smith was assisting her father-in-law, 85 year old Mr. Edward Smith, as he returned from a hospital stay for a heart condition. During Peggy's visit, Mr. Smith fell to the floor and showed no vital signs. Because of her nurses training, Peggy knew what to do. She administered chest compressions to Mr. Smith until EMS personnel arrived. Peggy's sister-in-law, Ms. Julene Terrill tells us she feels that Peggy's "quick action and knowledge definitely saved his life and we have him with us today."

### **Adult Good Samaritan Dale Cousineau**

In October of 2004, Dale Cousineau of Gladwin County was dining at a Bay City restaurant, when an elderly gentleman began choking on food. Mr. Cousineau administered the Heimlich maneuver to the gentleman, dislodging the food, enabling him to breathe. The gentleman was very emotional and thankful that Mr. Cousineau happened to be nearby and acted on his behalf.

### **Workplace Good Samaritan Ched Johnson & Keith Everett**

In the fall of 2004, Tyler Sanborn, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Northeast Middle School, was eating lunch with friends. While laughing at a joke, he choked on the food he was swallowing.

This incident could have been disastrous had it not been for the quick action of Ched Johnson and Keith Everett. These two gentlemen quickly responded to Tyler's distress and performed the Heimlich maneuver.

Although Tyler's nose started to bleed, they did not give up until the food was dislodged.

Tyler's parents, Tim and Mary "are more secure knowing that men like Mr. Johnson & Mr. Everett are part of the school system and are willing to react quickly and confidently in an emergency."

### **Public Safety Sheryl Dana & Craig Pickelman**

In December of 2004, a gentleman attending a service at a local funeral home experienced cardiac arrest and was carried from the chapel unresponsive.

The gentleman was examined by a nurse, Sheryl Dana, and an off duty fire fighter of the Auburn Williams Township Fire Dept., Mr. Craig Pickelman, who determined he was not breathing and had no pulse.

9-1-1 was notified and during the response time CPR was started and properly administered by Sheryl and Craig, with the support of others at the scene.

Due to the unselfish dedication by these individuals who were willing and able to respond in a medical emergency, the gentleman received proper care and attention.

### **Emergency Response Steve Church**

In January, 2004, Joyce Brabaw was dining at a local restaurant. When she finished her meal and rose to leave, she suddenly felt like she could not breathe, not even cough. She describes the feeling as though she were being hit with a baseball bat. Mr. Steve Church, an off-duty paramedic, recognized that Joyce was choking. He calmly informed her he was a medic and administered the Heimlich maneuver to Joyce, dislodging the food that was preventing her from breathing. Joyce feels that Steve saved her life. She states, ". . . thank God for his quick thinking and action, that he was there for me, like an angel put him there -I'm so grateful."

### **Life Saving Bill Cann**

During the summer of 2004, Mr. Bill Cann and Mr. Mike Roe were at a local lake running radio controlled boats. Mike's boat quit in the middle of the lake and he decided to swim out to retrieve it. Only after he had retrieved the boat did he realize how far from shore he was and he didn't have the strength to swim back.

Bill recognized that Mike was in trouble in the lake and swam out to rescue him. When Bill reached Mike in the lake, Mike was totally fatigued and actually went under water for a time. Luckily, Bill was able to get to Mike and pull him toward the surface.

Mike actually went under the water a second time, but Bill was able to pull him forward a bit so they could get to a more shallow area where they could touch the lake bottom and begin walking in to shore.

Mike tells us he has learned from this incident—when he is on the lake, he now carries a life jacket.

**Staff Members**

Patricia Tiernan, Executive Director

Mary Koskela, Emergency Services Director

Jill Dougherty, Health & Safety Director

Brian Scoles, Community & Volunteer Services Director

Mike Zink, Worksite Coordinator

Judy Leach, H.E.L.P. Coordinator

Angie Weintritt, Office Assistant

Kendra Mueller, Health & Safety Assistant

**Tsunami Relief: Thank you Midland & Gladwin Counties**

We want to personally thank the residents, businesses and schools of Midland & Gladwin Counties for supporting the American Red Cross international disaster relief efforts. The response to this campaign has been remarkable. The tremendous outpouring of support is a wonderful demonstration of our communities commitment to support those in need around the world. We're proud to announce that the Midland/Gladwin Chapter has processed nearly \$200,000 in aid funding, 100 percent of which will provide direct aid to the disaster victims in the Asian Pacific Rim.



American Red Cross  
Midland/Gladwin Chapter

*10% Off Coupon*



The Bearer of this coupon is entitled to the above stated discount on any Adult/Child & Infant CPR/AED Class

*Note: This coupon is only redeemable in person at the Midland/Gladwin Chapter. Please call the chapter at (989) 631-3262 or (989) for a course schedule.*