



There for our neighbors in Saipan

In early August, Typhoon Soudelor slammed the Northern Mariana Islands, part of the American Red Cross Pacific Islands Region, with winds of up to 120 mph. President Obama issued a Major Federal Disaster Declaration after more than 1,100 homes were reported damaged and most of the island of Saipan was without power, water and waste treatment facilities for weeks.

“It was a really catastrophic event,” says John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross Northern Mariana Islands Chapter. “I’ve never seen a storm that’s done this much damage to our islands.”

Red Cross workers jump into action

In the three days following the storm, over 2,000 calls for assistance came in to the Red Cross. Close to 600 residents spent multiple nights in shelters and the Red Cross provided over 12,000 meals and snacks within the first week following the storm. Thousands of relief items were passed out to residents and workers from Hawaii, Guam and the Mainland who provided assistance.

The Red Cross also created a robust relief plan that combined financial assistance with critical supplies to help people recover from the devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

“It was hectic, but it was productive,” says Claudine Atalig, a Red Cross Volunteer. “I was happy to see people’s smiles with the things that we gave.”



The Red Cross comforts thousands impacted by Typhoon Soudelor.

Donations pave the way to recovery

People count on the Red Cross to help them in their darkest hour. You can help people affected by disasters like Typhoon Soudelor and other crises by making a gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your support makes it possible for the Red Cross to fulfill its humanitarian mission by enabling us to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small.

To donate, go to redcross.org/hawaii, call 808-739-8109 or mail a check to the Hawaii Red Cross at 4155 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, HI 96816.

Inside

P2 A message from Coralie Chun Matayoshi



P3 Red Cross training pays off



P4 Supporting our veterans



Join us online to see the latest news and information, and to connect with other supporters like you!



facebook.com/redcross



twitter.com/redcross



A message
from the
CEO

You have the power to change lives

Every 4 days, Hawaii Red Cross dedicated staff and volunteers answer a call for help.

It could be a brush fire in Wahiawa or a home fire down the street. Whatever the crisis, whatever the size, thanks to the generosity of volunteers and donors like you, the Red Cross is able to answer each call for help.

The holiday season is an opportunity to give thanks for blessings and we count you among ours. It's also an opportunity to extend a helping hand to those in need. As you count your blessings, remember that you have the power to change the lives of families in need this holiday season and all year long.

We are so grateful to count you as part of the Red Cross community.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Thank you,

Coralie Chun Matayoshi, CEO
American Red Cross
Pacific Islands Region—
Hawaii, Guam, Saipan
Coralie.Matayoshi@redcross.org

Animals provide comfort at Tripler Army Medical Center

Red Cross volunteers and staff work with military and veterans' healthcare facilities to provide rehabilitation therapy and morale-building activities that are vital to the recovery of service members and veterans.

At Tripler Army Medical Center, the American Red Cross Hawaii State Chapter facilitated the Human Animal Bond Program that uses the therapeutic healing power of dogs to help patients recover from physical and mental illness. Volunteers bring their dogs to the facility to provide comfort and companionship.

Healing power of our four-footed friends

Red Cross Volunteer Glenn Suzuki experienced the benefits of human-animal interaction firsthand with his dog, Daniel. "When I was working, I had a bad stomach ulcer. When I got Daniel, I would hold him at night and noticed that the pain would go away. That's when I realized that dogs must have therapeutic value—just holding them, the



Dedicated volunteers help veterans recover with the help of canine companions.

warmth, comfort and security made me feel a lot better. I just thought that if it could help me, it could help others too."

Daniel and Glenn have been Red Cross volunteers since March 2009, visiting patients at Tripler Army Center at least once a week for 3-4 hours. That's 150 hours of canine love each year!

For more information, contact the Red Cross Human Animal Bond Program at 808-433-6631.

5 ways to stay safe this holiday season

With the decorations up and holiday music on the radio, remember to follow safety measures to ensure homes and loved ones are safe from the threat of fire.

1. Keep children, pets and decorations away from lit candles.
2. Check food regularly and remain at home while cooking. Use a timer as a reminder that the stove or oven is on.
3. Remember the three feet rule: Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from space heaters.
4. If you are using a fireplace, use a screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.
5. Replace any string of lights with worn or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets.

More safety tips for the holiday season and year-round are available at redcross.org



Red Cross training pays off

In the choppy waters of Kalapaki Bay, Kauai, Steve Soltysik and his friends were on a canoe outing when they saw two paddle boarders who looked to be in trouble. They ended up helping to save a life.

As they pulled up alongside, one of the struggling men was so exhausted that he lost grip on the board. “Just as we got there, he was going under,” says Steve.



Thanks to Red Cross training, local man saves drowning stranger.

Red Cross training saves a stranger

Steve, who is a Red Cross certified water safety teacher, jumped in, held on to the paddleboard and grabbed the man as he slipped underwater. They lifted him into the canoe, where he collapsed. Steve then climbed on the other man’s paddleboard with him and they all headed to shore.

A modest hero

“We just happened to be at the right place at the right time,” says Steve as he downplayed his role in the rescue. “I just maneuvered the canoe and got us in the right position.”

In addition to teaching water safety, Steve also volunteers with the Red Cross as a first aid and CPR instructor, teaching lifesaving skills to the Kauai community and serving as the disaster services logistics lead on Kauai.

“My Red Cross training really paid off in this situation,” he says. “It was a good day on the water.”

Find volunteer opportunities at redcross.org/support/volunteer

Donate your HawaiianMiles to the Hawaii Red Cross

To donate your HawaiianMiles to the Red Cross, log onto www.hawaiianair.com, sign in to your HawaiianMiles portal and under “Manage My Account,” click on “Donate to Charities.” Choose the American Red Cross, Hawaii Chapter and click on the “Donate Now” button.

Hawaiian Airlines will transfer the total miles donated to the Hawaii State Chapter and match the donation total up to 500,000 miles.



Donate your car (Oahu only)

You can make a difference by donating your car through the American Red Cross Vehicle Donation Program. Donating your vehicle—in any condition—is another great way to help us help others. We accept cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, boats and even jet skis.



Call 1-855-927-2227 or visit redcross.org/cardonation for more information.

Supporting our veterans

The American Red Cross is proud to continue our legacy of working side-by-side with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in service of our country's veterans.

The Red Cross has a long history of service to the veteran community, not only as advocates for veterans seeking benefits, but also as a source of employment. In the past three years, the Red Cross has hired over 2,000 veterans.

Helping heroes transition

In August, the Red Cross partnered with VA and Coursera to launch a new, no-cost online training program, VA Learning Hubs, to help transitioning service members and veterans learn skills, earn credentials and advance in civilian careers following separation from service. This program is part of VA's Veterans Economic Communities Initiative, which promotes education and employment opportunities through integrated networks of support at a local level. The program launched in 27 cities across the U.S., including Honolulu.

Through VA Learning Hubs, transitioning service members and veterans can take advantage of both online and in-person study. Each week, online course modules are

For more information about the VA Learning Hub, go to redcross.org/hawaii



VA and the Red Cross help veterans get the employment they deserve.

completed outside the classroom while class sessions, led by volunteer subject matter experts and Red Cross facilitators, provide opportunities to discuss course materials and hear from experts. The sessions include: networking opportunities, guest speakers and Q&A with experts from the community.

Veterans deserve every opportunity to make a successful transition to civilian life. The Red Cross is here to help them continue to live the American dream and bring the opportunity for career enhancement to their doorstep.

Mahalo to our corporate sponsors for their support in helping local families

Gold partners:



Silver partners:



Support the Hawaii Red Cross today!

As a Hawaii Red Cross Champion, you can make a difference this holiday season! Your support allows the Red Cross to help local communities prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters big and small.

Go to redcross.org/hawaii or call 808-739-8109 for credit card donations or send a check to the American Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter, 4155 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, HI 96816.