During National Nurses Week the American Red Cross recognizes the important contributions of the more than 15,000 nurses who serve in staff and volunteer positions at all levels of the Red Cross.

For more than 125 years, nurses have been an important part of the mission of the Red Cross, providing assistance during times of disaster and conflict. Today they provide a health perspective for the Red Cross and support all Red Cross lines of service – Disaster, Preparedness, Health and Safety, Service to the Armed Forces, Biomedical and International Services.

“The Red Cross extends its gratitude to all of our nurses,” said Linda MacIntyre, Red Cross Chief Nurse. “Thousands of nurses work at local and national levels to help the Red Cross achieve its mission. We appreciate their dedication and leadership.”

**SERVICE TO THE ARMED FORCES** Nurses volunteer in military clinics and hospitals. They confirm medical information for Service to the Armed Forces (SAF) emergency communications, help families and members of the military as they deploy and return from deployments and facilitate the SAF programs “Coping with Deployment” and “Reconnection Workshops”.

“For over a century, Red Cross nurses have played a pivotal role in providing comfort and care to the members of the U.S. military,” said Sherri Brown, senior vice president, Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces. “Whether in military and veterans’ medical facilities – at home or abroad, Red Cross nurses bring to bear the humanitarian spirit that people have come to expect from the American Red Cross.

**BLOOD SERVICES** A relatively new program, “Nurses Educating to Help Save Lives,” involves nurses and nursing students supporting Red Cross Blood Services by educating first-time blood donors and encouraging people who have already given blood to give again. Volunteer nurses also assist at blood drives, helping blood donors navigate the process, providing support and education.

"Nurses have always been an important part of the American Red Cross history,” said Shaun Gilmore, president, Red Cross Biomedical Services. “We’d like to recognize and thank all of the nurses who help us fulfill our lifesaving mission of providing blood and blood products for patients in need.”

**PREPAREDNESS AND HEALTH SAFETY SERVICES** Nurses help develop courses and teach Red Cross classes in CPR and First Aid, Babysitting...
and Family Caregiving. The Red Cross Nurse Assistant Training is taught by registered nurses and is available at different locations across the country, providing the skills needed to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

“For over a century, nurses have been leaders in delivering care through the American Red Cross, including important leadership positions that set the global agenda for health and safety preparedness training,” said Jack McMaster, president, Preparedness, Health and Safety for the American Red Cross. “Nurses help guide the Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council as it in turn guides the Red Cross on emergency education and practices. In fact, the Red Cross wouldn’t be an internationally recognized leader in training for CPR, AED or First Aid without the advice and counsel of nurses.”

“Nurses have always been for me the very embodiment of our top principle of humanity,” said Harold Brooks, senior vice president, International Operations for the American Red Cross. “When it comes to caring and concern and skills to act when the need is greatest, nurses are always there.”

Red Cross Award Presented to Maryland State Nurse Lead

Maryland State Nurse Lead for the American Red Cross Phillip Bovender, RN, was recently presented with the Ann Magnussen Award at ceremonies held at Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The Ann Magnussen Award is presented annually to a volunteer or employed registered nurse who has made an outstanding contribution to strengthening or improving American Red Cross programs and services. It is the highest honor of nursing achievement in the American Red Cross. Nominees are evaluated on four criteria – service to others; teaching, involving others; exhibiting compassion, professionalism and a humanitarian spirit and demonstrating outstanding contributions to strengthening Red Cross programs and services.

Bovender serves as the Disaster Health Services lead for the Red Cross of the Chesapeake Region as well as a member of the Baltimore city/county disaster action team and as the state-appointed state nurse lead for Maryland.

During his 41 years of service to the Red Cross, Bovender has taken on numerous responsibilities including supporting a region that responds to as many as three fires every day as well as volunteering for deployment when national disasters occur such as Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Isaac.

He gave more than 600 hours of his time in Fiscal Year 2013 alone supporting Red Cross disaster casework, ensuring quality disaster action team casework at the scene of a disaster and the extensive follow-up casework often involves. Bovender also mentors new volunteers on disaster action team responses.

The award recipient has spent more than 300 hours teaching Disaster Health Services to more than 100 Maryland public health nurses to support sheltering activities. He has also taught client casework classes throughout his region.

Bovender also implemented a Red Cross national student nurse program at Coppin State and Salisbury universities in which every graduating senior from the Salisbury University School of Nursing will be qualified to work in a Red Cross shelter.

The awardee was also responsible for the Red Cross of the Chesapeake Region being awarded the Susan Hassmiller Nursing Award several months ago which included a $5,000 grant to help fund an initiative to promote African American blood donations. [Bovender’s successful nomination of the Chesapeake Region for the Hassmiller award is described in more detail in the Fall 2013 issue of Nursing Matters Past and Present.]
Community Partnership’s Goal: Increase Blood Donations by African Americans

Isaiah Darden-Roey is ten years old and a student in the 5th grade in Madison, Wisconsin. He has severe sickle cell disease and has had over 200 blood transfusions to help him survive. Four years ago, former University of Wisconsin-Madison Dean of Students Mary K. Rouse was donating blood at the Badger-Hawkeye Red Cross headquarters in Madison. While there she met Isaiah and his mother, Latyna Lewis, who educated her about sickle cell, the need to teach individuals about the disease and the need for more blood donations, especially by African Americans. African Americans constitute 13% of the US population and represent 1% of blood donations. Although retired, Mary works part-time at UW-Madison’s Morgridge Center for Public Service, whose mission is to connect campus and community. She suggested a partnership with the Urban League of Greater Madison and the Red Cross to host two sickle cell blood drives each year—one on campus and one at the Urban League in South Madison, a neighborhood with a relatively high proportion of African American residents. Both organizations responded quickly and enthusiastically. Team Sickle Cell is coordinated by Mary and two students at the Morgridge Center and has representatives from campus faculty and staff and the two community partners. Because the blood drives were so well-received, especially by members of the African-American community, Team Sickle Cell decided to hold them semiannually. The most recent drive held on campus on March 28, 2014 surpassed its goal of 25 pints of usable blood by 20%.

Vivian Littlefield, former Dean of the UW-Madison School of Nursing and Mary were colleagues and friends. Mary described her work with the sickle cell project to Vivian and asked if student nurses could participate. Vivian shared information about the pilot Red Cross program “Nurses Educating to Help Save Lives”. It was an excellent match. Mary became a member of the National Nursing Committee’s Biomedical Work Group chaired by Vivian. She shared how community leaders could partner with regional and state nurse leaders and blood donor staff to promote blood drives in African American communities and information about the importance of these blood donations. She and Vivian discussed the possibility of giving nursing students the opportunity to work with the communities and churches supporting the blood donation effort. Mary shared what she had learned from her experience and accompanied some of the students who individualized the slide presentation for the needs of those attending. An African American returning adult nursing student who presented “Nurses Educating to Help Save Lives” to meet her community health requirement delivered very successful presentations, personalizing them by sharing her experience of giving blood for the first time and why she waited so long to give. In a post-experience survey, many other students from UW-Madison reported they were inspired to become regular blood donors.

Blood donor recruiters tell students that a major reason individuals don’t donate blood is that they have never been asked. Going into communities, organizations, businesses, schools and churches where there are no current blood donors can make a difference in the number and diversity of individuals who do donate. Having a real life story such as Isaiah’s also enhances the learning experience and encourages donations. Partnering with a community leader or organization like the Urban League to promote blood drives can be a positive learning experience as well as a boost to successful donor recruitment. As Isaiah grows up, hopefully efforts such as these will ensure that compatible blood is always available for the vital transfusions that sustain him and so many others.
Nursing Students Learn About American Red Cross Opportunities for Service

Cheryl K. Schmidt, PhD, RN, CNE, NEF, FAAN

The National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) held its 2014 Annual Convention at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN, drawing over 3,300 nursing students from throughout the United States. Many focus sessions were offered to the students during the four-day event, including a new American Red Cross course titled “Nurses Educating to Help Save Lives.” The course is designed to be taught by nursing students and nurses in their communities in order to promote blood donations. Dr. Vivian Littlefield has been collaborating with the Biomedical staff at American Red Cross national headquarters in Washington, D.C. to develop course materials, which have been used in selected areas of the country. In order to expand the use of this course in the community, Dr. Littlefield and Dr. Cheryl Schmidt presented sessions on the design and resources related to the course to over 150 nursing students at the NSNA convention. The convention also held its annual blood drive two days after the first session was presented. Over 150 students lined up to donate, and 126 were successful donors. Many students were actually turned away because the donor unit ran out of collection supplies. This demonstrated the community spirit of these nursing students, who will hopefully return to their own communities to teach the course and help organize blood drives.

In addition to the new course, three “Disaster Health and Sheltering for Nursing Students” tabletop exercises were taught by nursing faculty and volunteer Red Cross nurses. Student completed the first part of the course online prior to arriving at the convention. The tabletop session completed the two-part course which prepares students to serve as volunteers in Red Cross shelters. Over 500 students attended those sessions. Unfortunately, many were turned away because of space limitations, reflecting the tremendous interest in this course since it was piloted at NSNA in 2009 and launched throughout the United States in 2010.

The Red Cross is grateful to the NSNA for its continuing support of educating nursing students about Red Cross programs and volunteer opportunities. Besides offering educational sessions at their two annual national meetings, the NSNA provides links to the Red Cross on its community service/disaster preparedness homepage. This partnership will continue for many years to come.

For questions related to “Nurses Educating to Help Save Lives,” please contact Dr. Vivian Littlefield at Vivian.Littlefield@redcross.org. For questions related to the “Disaster Health and Sheltering” course and other Red Cross volunteer opportunities for nursing students, please contact Dr. Cheryl Schmidt at schmidtcherylk@uams.edu.

Introducing Rosa L. Brown, an Historical Red Cross Nurse

Jean Waldman Shulman, RN

Few people are aware of an important American Red Cross nurse from the first half of the 20th century who supported disaster response and developed public health programs for rural populations.

Details about Red Cross Home Defense Nurse Mrs. Rosa Lee Williams Brown have been difficult to find and piece together, complicated by the fact that Red Cross historical records and her publications cite her name as Rosa Lee Brown, whereas prior to 1917 she was Rosa Lee Williams. One such reference was in the book written by enrolled Red Cross Nurse Adah B. Thoms who, during the early 1900’s, served as president of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. Details in Thoms' book, Pathfinders: A History of the Progress of Colored Graduate Nurses, Lillian Wald of the Henry Street Settlement wrote that Mrs. Thoms represented Lincoln Hospital at the 1912 congress of the International Council of Nurses in Cologne, Germany to describe the hospital’s field of service and teaching. “With

*Ed. note: This term is used in this article only to maintain the historical accuracy of actual quotes and association names in Rosa Lee Williams Brown’s time.
another colored delegate, Mrs. Thoms traveled widely, visiting many prominent hospitals and storing up valuable material for her work,” Wald reported.

Who was this unnamed second delegate? After several years of research, we now know the primary delegate to the International Council of Nurses was Mrs. Rosa Lee Williams Brown. She was a member of the Class of 1907, Lincoln Hospital, New York City. For many years the only information about Mrs. Brown came from an American Journal of Nursing (AJN) article written by Frances Smith Dean in July 1931, “Rosa L. Brown’s Contribution to Her Own Race” and the 1932 Red Cross Courier dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the Red Cross Public Health Nursing Service. In the Courier, Mrs. Brown described “An Experiment That Won Permanency” about her innovative rural program in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Rosa Williams Brown was born in the Richmond, Virginia area in about 1880. At the time of her graduation from Lincoln, she was a widow. She accepted a position at the Colored Orphans Asylum, Riverdale, New York. The 1910 U.S. Census lists Rosa Williams, a trained nurse, the names of staff members, and those of 329 children. She resigned as head nurse in 1913 because of administration changes in the institution and expressed her concerns about the care of the children and workers in The New York Age newspaper.

Mrs. Williams was a 1908 charter member of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. In 1911, Lavinia Dock issued an invitation to the association to send a delegate to the International Council of Nurses’ May 1912 meeting in Cologne, Germany. The NACGN elected Williams to report on the work of her fellow nurses in the United States. These nurses staffed health departments, milk stations, district nursing and institutions.

“We had high ideals; we could see the needs of our people as no one else could,” she said in writing about programs in Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia as well as established centers in New York and Pennsylvania and other northern states.

Williams’ speech “The Social Work of the Coloured Nurse” was published in the British Journal of Nursing in 1912 and a condensed version was republished in 1913 in the Journal of the National Medical Association column “Of Interest to Nurses.” She served as president of NACGN in 1914 and membership secretary in 1921.

She moved to Jacksonville, Florida as superintendent of Provident Hospital in 1914. By 1917 she married Dr. Richard L. Brown, Howard University College of Medicine, 1911. They established Brown’s Hospital. Mrs. Brown encouraged efforts to organize a local group for the NACGN. During WWI she supported African American community participation with the Jacksonville Red Cross Chapter.

She responded to the call for nurses after the devastating Florida hurricanes of 1926 and 1928. Her work in the 1928 disaster received praise from local and national Red Cross nurses. Mrs. Brown explained, “The tent colony seemed to have been quite a revelation to the official staff in regard to the response given by these poor refugees to the things we were trying to teach them. I have been called back to Palm Beach by the American Red Cross to teach Home Hygiene and Sanitation in the rural districts. I shall make good with the hope of opening up new work for our younger nurses.”

The Palm Beach Chapter requested her expertise in developing a six-month public health program in the rural districts of the county. Transportation in the form of a Ford car was all she had to start the programs. To reach more women, she taught the Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick course at night. She established inoculation clinics, reported tuberculosis cases for investigation and care and examined thousands of school children. She developed a Home Beautiful campaign, Parent-Teacher Associations and many educational opportunities for students. The State Board of Health appointed Mrs. Brown as the direct supervisor of thirteen midwives in the county.

The success of Mrs. Brown’s efforts allowed the program to continue for several years. In Frances Smith Dean’s AJN article, she explains Mrs. Brown’s role, “Pioneering in progressive public
Mrs. Brown’s chapter report in January, 1937 compares conditions of 1929 with 1936. She modestly describes improvements in educational and preventive work for children. Schools with bus transportation increased from nine to sixteen and school-year length increased from three months to nine months with ninety-eight percent of eighth graders going on to high school. A clinic and a six-bed hospital were built for sugar cane workers.

She always praised the American Red Cross and chapter for service to humanity but also called attention to “the deplorable health conditions in the ‘Glades’ where families were living in stalls “not nearly as sanitary as those built for well-bred horses.” She “attempted to speak for those who would be unable to find any help in time of sickness, disease and distress” and believed the public health nurse was created for the good of those who needed her most, the underprivileged of Palm Beach County.

Her reports continued into 1940 but she may have moved to Fort Lauderdale by 1942. Her husband joined the physicians at Provident Hospital and the family is listed in city directories. Dr. Brown died in 1961 and Rosa Brown remained in the home until 1965.

With further research I hope to be able to write more about the admirable life and work of Rosa Lee Williams Brown, American Red Cross nurse.

Rose Shine – Iowan & Red Cross Nurse

Rose M. Shine, RN, BSNE, a lifetime Iowa resident, was born in Albia, Iowa. She earned her three-year Registered Nurse diploma from Iowa Lutheran School of Nursing in Des Moines. Her first nursing position was as a floor nurse in the Des Moines Lutheran Hospital. She continued with her college work and in 1967, earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education from Warburg College in Waverly.

Rose and her husband Harlan had two children. When Harlan retired, the family moved to a farm in Conrad, Iowa and lived there from 1958 until 1986. Rose still lives in Conrad, a small, picturesque rural community 14 miles north of Marshalltown. Rose lost her husband in 1986 and one of her two sons in 2013. She enjoys her visits with her four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Professionally, Rose applied her nursing education skills at the Marshalltown Hospital for 26 years. In addition she worked as an agent for the Iowa Department of Inspection and Appeals, reviewing nursing homes for compliance to state standards.

She joined the Peace Corps and from 1986 to 1988 was assigned to St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a tutor in a diploma school of nursing run by the government. She says the students’ learning
process was primarily through lectures, because text books were not readily available and the library nursing text books were limited in number and predated current best practices.

She also went on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic and worked as a nurse in a hospital run by the Catholic Church.

Her volunteer work for the Red Cross began in the 1990’s with the Staffing and Disaster Health Services functions at the Iowa Rivers Chapter in Marshalltown. This was the first step in what was to be one of the most rewarding periods of her life.

Rose says her greatest personal reward related to her volunteer experience was to interact with disaster-related clients, use her nursing skills and to be appreciated by the client for her compassionate presence.

The health of volunteers in the American Red Cross is the number one priority for Susan Denavit, RN, Lead Consultant for Staff Wellness and a manager in both Staff Wellness and Disaster Health Services. “A healthy workforce ensures a more healthy response to our clients,” Denavit says. To this end she and seven wellness consultants (one in each division) have begun the process of developing comprehensive guidance (“doctrines”) on staff wellness that can be used when deploying volunteers, with the goal of “sending the right people to the right job”. This review will encourage an assessment of each individual disaster to determine where the event is, if there is flooding, sub-zero weather, dusty conditions, uneven terrain, or other risks specific to the area, such as a virus. This kind of assessment assists in determining the appropriate staffing for that specific event.

Developing a “hardship code” check list identifies these geographical facts that can then foster inclusion for those persons with health, access and functional needs or, if necessary, prevent deployment for those at high risk in a perilous environment. The proposed doctrine construction (Version I for Staff Wellness) is currently under review at Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C. and is expected to be available for hurricane season which begins in June. Taking care of each other is not only a priority for Denavit, but also for all Red Cross nurses when working with co-workers as well as clients in a shelter, a classroom or a neighborhood community. Thanks to the wellness consultants for reminding us to “take care of our own” so as to better take care of others.

Helping the Red Cross through Estate Planning

Candace Roosevelt, MAN, MBA

Is Your Will Up to Date? Your lawyer undoubtedly drafted your original estate plan based on existing conditions, laws, asset values, planning techniques, financial needs and objectives. However, all these factors can and do change from time to time. Your will or other documents must change with them. You may need a codicil (amendment), or you may need to completely rewrite your will.

To be safe, take the time at least once a year to review your will or living trust in light of your present circumstances. Are the people I named in my will all still alive? Have my plans been affected by marriages or divorces? Have I moved to a different state since my will was drafted? Is my executor still able and willing to serve? Have new assets come into my estate? Has my “death tax” situation changed?

The recent volatility of the stock market suggests some uncertainty in leaving specific stocks to your beneficiaries. To ensure that your bequests are carried out in accordance with your wishes, it may make sense to leave a percentage of your estate instead of shares of stock in a particular company.
You also should ask your lawyer to look at your will at least every two years, whether or not you think you want to make changes. State law revisions, new tax pitfalls or opportunities and new financial considerations make periodic legal reviews well worthwhile.

As you review your plans, please remember that your will can contribute to a safer, healthier society if you include a bequest to the American Red Cross. A simple codicil (amendment) often is all that’s needed.

For more information on making a legacy gift please contact Candace Roosevelt, Gift Planning Officer, at 617-274-5247 or Candace.Roosevelt@redcross.org

American Red Cross
National Nursing Committee
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AMERICAN RED CROSS National Nursing Committee
Heritage Committee Membership: Vivian Littlefield, Chair; Elizabeth Kazmier, Editor; Donna Jensen, Associate Editor; Committee Members/Contributors: Molly Dalton; Donna Dorsey; Marie Etienne; Candace Roosevelt; Cheryl Schmidt; Jean Schulman; Jean Van Voorhis

Help us get in touch with other current and former Red Cross Nurses!
Please send the email, phone, and address of your friends and colleagues to us at RedCrossNurse@redcross.org. And share this newsletter via email, Facebook, Twitter and your preferred social media. Link to http://www.redcross.org/support/get-involved/heritage-program and click on the “Nursing Matters – Past and Present” link.

Thank you! Happy Nurses’ Week!
http://www.redcross.org/news/galleries/National-Nurses-Week-Red-Cross-Nurses-Lend-a-Hand