



Home Fire Campaign: Red Cross, Partners Install One-Millionth Free Smoke Alarm

Molly Dalton

The American Red Cross recently announced that one million free smoke alarms have been installed and 285 lives have been saved due to the efforts of the volunteers and community partners who have participated in the organization's Home Fire Campaign.



A Red Cross volunteer installs a smoke alarm in Alexandria, VA, one of a million installed across the country as part of the Home Fire Campaign. Photo by Melissa Nyman/American Red Cross.

These accomplishments were made possible through generous financial donations from national partners: Almost Family and Delta Air Lines. The Red Cross has also received funding from FEMA through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

Since the campaign began in 2014, Red Cross volunteers across the country have been teaming up with local fire departments and community partners to reduce home fire tragedies in at-risk communities.

With the help of 4,400 partner organizations, the Red Cross has helped to make more than one million people safer through home visits to install free smoke alarms, help families develop fire escape plans and provide home fire safety education. Since 2014, the campaign has also reached nearly 895,000 kids through youth preparedness programs, helped to create more than 340,000 home fire escape plans, and replaced more than 51,000 smoke alarm batteries.

This spring, the Red Cross will *Sound the Alarm* through a nationwide series of home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events from April 28 to May 13, 2018. Working with volunteers and partner organizations, the Red Cross plans to install 100,000 free smoke alarms across more than 100 major cities. Volunteers and financial contributions are needed.

Join this Red Cross effort today by volunteering to install smoke alarms in your community, make a financial contribution, or take steps to protect your own family from home fires. Together, we can *Sound the Alarm* about fire safety and help save lives. Visit SoundTheAlarm.org for more information.

Red Cross Helps Tens of Thousands of People for Months after Massive Disasters Hit U.S.

Molly Dalton

On August 25, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, commencing what would become weeks of responding to massive disasters for the American Red Cross.

Harvey was just the beginning of the historic devastation, followed by Hurricanes Irma and Maria causing untold damage in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The most damaging wildfires in California history followed in September, burning thousands of structures and homes in California and displacing thousands.

More than 17,000 trained disaster workers, 91 percent of them volunteers from all over the United States, and several teams from Red Cross Societies in other countries deployed to the affected states and territories to provide food, water, shelter, relief supplies, health support and other aid to the tens of thousands of people affected by the deadly storms and raging fires. Many of these workers supported multiple relief operations or deployed multiple times over these last several months.

As of October 31, the Red Cross and its many

government and disaster partners have provided the following:

- **1.3 million** (1,385,769) overnight stays in Red Cross and community shelters. Overall, shelters were opened in 9 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. That's more overnight shelter stays than the past 5 years combined.
- **6.9 million** (6,943,794) meals and snacks – that's more food than the past 4 years combined.
- **5.8 million** (5,877,268) relief items such as cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, shovels, rakes, gloves, trash bags, masks and many other necessities.
- **212,879** health and mental health contacts, including replacing lost eyeglasses and medications, fulfilling special health needs for shelter residents, visiting the elderly, sick and disabled and providing comfort to people who are enduring these very trying situations.

Disaster Health Services disaster volunteers provided invaluable assistance to the victims of these disasters. [Read here](#) to learn more about how they are helping in Puerto Rico after Hurricane



American Red Cross volunteer nurses, Summer (San Diego, California) and Toni (Burnsville, Minnesota), provide support to a resident of Immokalee, Florida. Red Cross volunteer nurses were onsite providing health screenings – primary concerns were low blood sugar and dehydration. Immokalee is the center of the region's agriculture industry and home to many immigrant and migrant families, who primarily speak only Spanish and Creole. Volunteer translators in both languages assisted residents receive care and much needed items. Photo by Daniel Cima for the American Red Cross.

Maria. [In this story](#), learn how our volunteers helped a cardiac patient in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

BECOME A RED CROSS VOLUNTEER

Whether helping a family displaced by disaster, providing care and comfort to an ill or injured service member or veteran, or teaching others how to respond in emergencies, it's through the efforts of our Red Cross volunteers that these often lifesaving tasks are accomplished. [Visit here](#) to find out how you can become

a Red Cross volunteer and help people in need.

ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP

The Red Cross works 24/7 to be ready to respond to as many as 64,000 disasters each year. Please donate to the Red Cross now to help. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small. For more information, or to support Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services, visit redcross.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

Deputy Surgeon General RADM Sylvia Trent-Adams, PhD, RN FAAN, 2017 Florence Nightingale Medal Recipient

Linda MacIntyre, PhD, RN

Rear Admiral [RADM] Sylvia Trent-Adams was selected as the sole U.S. recipient of the 2017 Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest Red Cross international honor for nurses. The medal recognizes exceptional courage and devotion to victims of armed conflict or natural disaster, along with exemplary service or a pioneering spirit in the areas of public health or nursing education.



Rear Admiral Sylvia Trent-Adams spoke at the reception in her honor. Photo by Michelle Frankfurter for the American Red Cross.

International Council of Nurses. The award was presented at the recent annual American Red Cross Leadership Award Event in Washington D.C.

A reception was held in honor of Trent-Adams. Attendees included family, friends, colleagues and leaders from the American Association of Retired Persons, the Federal Nursing Service Council, Hampton University, the U.S. Health

Resources and Service Administration, the National Black Nurses Association, the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, the National Association of School Nurses, the National League for Nursing, the Red Cross, the Robert Wood Johnson

[Recipients](#) were selected by a commission comprised of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the

Foundation, the University of Maryland, the Baltimore County Department of Health and the U.S. Public Health Service.

Trent-Adams, a registered nurse and the U.S.

Deputy Surgeon General, earned a PhD in Public Policy with a health concentration from the University of Maryland in 2006. She is passionate about promoting respectful care for all, regardless of an individual's background or contagious medical diagnosis. She is a staunch advocate in creating systems to support individuals who experience stigma, such as individuals with HIV or Ebola. She acts as a role model and is exemplary in addressing injustices.



Rear Admiral Sylvia Trent-Adams receiving The Florence Nightingale Medal from Gail McGovern, David Meltzer and Bonnie McElveen-Hunter. Photo by Dennis Drenner for the American Red Cross.

While in nursing school, Trent-Adams took the Red Cross HIV/AIDS instructor training and volunteered with the Hampton Road Red Cross, the Red Cross in Lynchburg, Virginia and at the Walter Reed National Medical Center. Her volunteer work included assisting instructors in classes and later teaching courses including HIV/AIDS, Babysitting and Red Cross community health classes for new moms.

At the awards event, Trent-Adams spoke about how her early Red Cross experiences influenced her career. Her many years of volunteer work helped Trent-Adams understand that “we’re all important” and that we all have a role to play in the community.

In 2014, Trent-Adams worked as a U.S. Public Health commanding officer to coordinate resources for local communities in response to Ebola in Liberia. Actions included ensuring access to food, water and shelter, providing community education

about Ebola and ensuring better resources for individuals suffering post-Ebola stigmatization or isolation when not accepted back into their community. Trent-Adams was quick to acknowledge team members for their part in this work.

Trent-Adams’ outstanding achievements demonstrate her exemplary service in public health. These include:

- establishing the first Ebola support group in Liberia
- developing a comprehensive plan to ensure that the community had food, water, shelter and information about Ebola
- producing the Ebola clinical guidelines that were adopted throughout West Africa
- working for years to ensure that individuals impacted by HIV/AIDS received life-saving services

Sylvia Trent-Adams’ accomplishments in mitigating the suffering of individuals with stigmatizing diseases reflect the legacy established by Florence Nightingale. Her service continues as Deputy Surgeon General. It was an honor to recognize Trent-Adams for her exceptional leadership and service to people and communities in need.

National Black Nurses Association, Red Cross Partnership Highlighted at NBNA Annual Conference

Carmen Kynard DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, NP-C, MBA, MEd, PMHRN-BC

Representatives from the American Red Cross National Nursing Committee [NNC] presented a preconference session entitled: “American Red Cross Promoting Community Health through a NBNA-Red Cross Partnership” at the 45th Annual Institute and Conference of the National Black Nurses Association [NBNA] held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Red Cross presented updates to NBNA members on ways that nurses and nursing students can impact community health, both domestically and internationally, through the Red Cross. Content included research related to blood donations, changing demographics and strategies for increasing diverse blood donors to improve patient outcomes, academic service learning

opportunities for nursing students with the Red Cross that impact community health, and information on how the Measles and Rubella Initiative is helping to reduce the number of deaths from measles-related complications.



Leaders of the workshop included NNC members: Carmen Kynard, back row center; Barbara Nichols, back row 7th from left; Marie Etienne, front row far left; Rebecca Harris-Smith, front row, far right.

Rubella Initiative. Rebecca Harris-Smith, EdD, MSN, RN, the NBNA's NNC representative was the moderator for the presentation.

The presenters included Barbara L. Nichols, MS, RN, FAAN, Vice Chair, NNC; Britteni Williams, Red Cross Donor Recruitment Account Representative; and Carmen Kynard, DNP, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, NP-C, MBA, MEd, PMHRN-BC, Chairperson, NNC. Marie Etienne, DNP, ARNP, PLNC, NNC member and Chairperson, NNC International Services Workgroup helped facilitate a group discussion regarding the Measles and

Approximately 50

members of the NBNA were in attendance. The content was well received. Attendees were so inspired regarding the need for diverse blood donations that they suggested that the Red Cross hold a blood drive in conjunction with next year's NBNA conference, which will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. The Red Cross team has been invited to present again during next year's NBNA conference. Efforts in responding to the request for a blood drive are underway in conjunction with the local Red Cross chapter in St. Louis.

Nurses' Work on Measles and Rubella Initiative Recognized With Championship Award

Chair of International Services Workgroup of the National Nursing Committee

Marie O. Etienne, DNP, ARNP, PLNC,

The American Red Cross recently acknowledged the extraordinary work of the National Nursing Committee [NNC] and nurse leaders with the Championship Award for outstanding efforts in raising awareness to eliminate measles & rubella locally and abroad.



Phillip Bovender (L) accepted the award from David Meltzer (R). Photo courtesy of the American Red Cross.

Phillip Bovender, RN, BSN, CCRN, Associate Division Nurse Leader for the Mid-Atlantic Region, received the award on behalf of the NNC and nurse leaders from David Meltzer, General Counsel and Chief International Officer, American Red Cross.

[CDC], UNICEF and World Health Organization to help control the spread of measles and reduce measles-related deaths. Over the last 15 years, the American Red Cross and its Initiative partners have helped to vaccinate two billion children in 88 developing countries.

The International Services Workgroup of the NNC has been working diligently on the Measles and Rubella Initiative [M&RI] to raise awareness of its goal of eliminating measles and rubella from the planet. The M&RI was created in 2001 by the American Red Cross, United Nations Foundation, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

In 2016, a project was launched by the NNC to support the M&RI, by fundraising directly to nurses (see link below) and by raising the awareness of people in the community and of legislators. The project includes the Community Health Educator Program which is designed to educate members of the community about the need to protect children against these preventable diseases both in the United States and abroad. James Noe, Program Officer for M&RI, has been working with various chapters to implement the Community Health Educator Program. Chapter volunteers get involved in the program by conducting presentations to raise awareness of the

risks associated with measles and rubella and of the work of the American Red Cross.

Another component of the NNC's project to support the M&RI is the mobilization of Red Cross senior nurse leaders to educate legislators and advocate for CDC funding for the M&RI. Several nurse leaders met with members of the offices of U.S. senators to discuss the need for increased support for global measles and rubella elimination activities and for funding for our partner, the CDC. These Red Cross senior nurse leaders have been extremely helpful to the M&RI and will continue to strengthen that partnership through further advocacy support in 2018. Wendy Ward, Sr. Advocacy & Policy Program Officer, International Services, along with Dr. Mary Agocs, Senior Advisor for M&RI, International Services, have been instrumental in supporting the nurse leaders in this endeavor.

The Championship Award recognizes the work of the entire team supporting the M&RI, including the International Services Workgroup, Red Cross Chief Nurse Linda MacIntyre for her extraordinary leadership and all the volunteers who have worked very hard to support the M&RI.

Measles remains one of the top five killers of children under 5 years of age globally. Due to our combined efforts, the lives of 20.3 million children have been saved from 2000 to 2015. While significant progress has been made, every day 400 people die of measles, and each year more than 100,000 children are born with congenital rubella syndrome. Both diseases are easily prevented with a safe and effective vaccine. To donate, simply click on the link:

<https://www.crowdrise.com/nurses-working-together-to-stop-measles-and-rubella>.

Holiday Campaign: 'Give Something that Means Something' this Holiday Season

Molly Dalton

The American Red Cross recently launched its annual [Holiday Giving Campaign](#), asking the public to 'Give Something that Means Something' after the organization's record-breaking relief efforts this year to help the hundreds of thousands of people impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and the massive wildfires in California.

These enormous disasters occurred within weeks of each other, and thousands of Red Cross disaster workers from all over the country, along with help from the Red Cross in other countries, deployed to the impacted regions to provide food, shelter and comfort to those in need.

Along with these disaster responses, the Red Cross also helped hospital patients who needed blood or platelets, members of the military and their families, provided lifesaving training and supported international Red Cross efforts around the world. To support all these efforts, the Red

Cross is appealing to the public to "Give Something That Means Something" by donating to the Red Cross [Holiday Giving](#) campaign.

HOW THE CAMPAIGN WORKS The campaign offers a way to give symbolic gifts to people on your holiday shopping lists that support the Red Cross mission. Supporters can #givewithmeaning and access the online catalog at redcross.org/gifts, choosing from the diverse assortment of symbolic gifts, and making a tax-deductible donation online. They can also call 1-800 RED CROSS to support the corresponding Red Cross services and send a free electronic or greeting card to the friend, family member, co-worker or customer being honored by their donation. It's that easy.

These are a few of the most popular items from the Red Cross Holiday Giving effort.

- A \$25 donation can provide blankets for five people staying in emergency shelters.



Give Something that Means Something.

- A \$30 gift can provide hot meals for three people following a disaster.
- A \$50 donation can supply a full day of emergency shelter with urgently needed essentials, including 3 meals, 2 blankets, 1 cot, snacks and personal hygiene supplies for someone impacted by disaster.
- A \$147 contribution can provide military hospital kits to 20 service members.
- A financial contribution of \$100 can educate families and vaccinate 100 children against measles and rubella—a \$500 gift can vaccinate

an entire village.

Donors who contribute more than \$125 will receive a Red Cross thank you gift while supplies last.

People can also offer their support by giving blood or platelets during the holiday season, or by becoming a Red Cross volunteer. To schedule an appointment to give the gift of life by donating blood or platelets or to learn more about becoming a Red Cross volunteer, visit redcross.org today.

American Red Cross Nursing Service and Navy Nurse Corps in WWI

Jean Shulman, RN

Congress established the United States Navy Nurse Corps on May 13, 1908. From those early years, the history of the Navy Nurse Corps and American Red Cross Nursing Service are intertwined. This was especially evident 100 years ago as the U.S. Navy ramped up for battle when the country entered the Great War.

Superintendent Hasson first served on the U.S.S. *Relief* off Cuba during the Spanish American War in 1898. As the first superintendent, she designed the indoor uniform and insignia for the Corps. Besides Washington, D.C., her nurses served at the ports of New York, Norfolk, Annapolis and Mare Island.

The Red Cross organized 8 base hospitals, 20 naval station units and 42 naval detachments for the Navy. In the autumn of 1917, these base hospitals deployed to England, Ireland, Scotland and France. From April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918, the American Red Cross Nursing Service certified 330 nurses for the naval hospitals, 180 for the naval station units and 540 for the naval detachments. The Red Cross furnished the nurses assigned to foreign service with full equipment and outdoor uniforms.

Superintendent Higbee, the young widow of Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel John Henley Higbee, worked closely with Jane Delano and the Red Cross Nursing Service staff throughout the war. Higbee, Badge #3009, enrolled in the Red Cross in 1912 and served on the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing. After the war, she became the first living nurse to receive the Navy Cross. The first warship the Navy named for a woman was the U.S.S. *Higbee*, named in 1944 to commemorate her service in the Navy Nurse Corps.



Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee

The first enrolled nurses in the Navy Nurse Corps, known as “The Sacred Twenty,” included the first three superintendents of the Corps: Esther



“The Sacred Twenty”

Vorhees Hasson, 1908-1911; Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee, 1911-1922; and Josephine Beatrice Bowman, 1922-1935.

Superintendent Bowman, Badge #612, had a long relationship with Red Cross nursing. In 1908, she responded to the call for nurses to assist flood victims in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. From 1920 through 1934, she served on the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing. After retirement from the Navy, she served on the local nursing committees of Red Cross chapters in Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania.

In 1914, Bowman resigned from the Navy for one year to join the S.S. *Red Cross* a.k.a. the “Mercy Ship”. She was the supervising nurse for Unit D at the 2,600 bed Hasler Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, England. After six weeks, her unit then joined Unit F at Oldway House in Paignton.



Josephine Beatrice Bowman

Paris Singer, of the sewing machine company, loaned his palatial estate for hospital use and Lady Randolph (Jennie) Churchill, Winston Churchill’s mother, and the American Women’s War Relief outfitted the building.

During World War I, Bowman served stateside as chief nurse at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital. The hospital increased from 100

beds to 1,200 beds as the Naval Training Station reached capacity with 50,000 men. Epidemics of measles, mumps, chicken-pox and other infectious diseases preceded the deadly influenza epidemic which followed.

While Bowman and hundreds of other Navy nurses served at Navy bases across the U.S. in November 1917, the nurses of Navy Base Hospital #1 and Naval Base #5 reached their final quarters in Brest, France.

One of Superintendent Higbee’s chief nurses, Katrina Herzer, represented the Navy Nurse Corps on Jane Delano’s staff and assisted with enrollment for the military. Hertzner, Badge #3288, joined the Red Cross Mercy Ship mission in 1914 with Unit E in Budapest, Hungary. From 1915 to 1916 she volunteered with the Red Cross Commission in Siberia.

Chief Nurse Alice Garrett commented that the work of the Navy Nurse Corps, although greatly needed, was perhaps not as spectacular as that of the Army. Descriptions of care prove otherwise. The Navy nurses responded to all situations with the highest of standards under impossible circumstances. Superintendent Higbee wrote, “No words of mine can adequately describe the valiant way the nurses met the austere and dangerous conditions.” Chief Nurses Frances Van Ingen and

Alice Garrett kept both base hospitals running smoothly even as they lost staff to the units near the front and to American Red Cross hospitals in Paris.

Garrett explained, “Our patients were survivors from torpedoed boats or lads burned from explosions, or physical wrecks from the hard lives spent on destroyers and convoys... It was always a pleasure to minister to them; their bravery and their gratitude were boundless. To find a hospital with real American nurses meant more than they could tell.”

Navy nurses sent with the operating teams, evacuation and field units often served as anesthetists. They worked more than twelve hours despite horrible weather, lack of equipment, and constant gas alarms. As soon as one patient was carried out, the next stretcher arrived from a new convoy of wounded.

Shared memories from the nurses were similar. “I cannot describe those nights, -the long hours spent at the sterile table, or in giving anesthetics or in doing the many tasks about the room; the intense suffering of the wounded, the ghastly sights...when gangrene was present.” However, accounts also praise the spirit in each hospital. Convalescent patients volunteered to help when corpsmen were not available. Everyone worked together for the comfort of the wounded men.



Navy nurse Hazel Herringshaw stands with two of her patients in 1918.

By the armistice in November 1918, the Navy Nurse Corps had reached 1,500 nurses with 1,058 enrolled by the American Red Cross for assignment to the Navy.

Chief Nurse Van Ingen and Navy Hospital Base #1 later played a special role in assisting Jane Delano on what became her final assignment as director of the American Red Cross Nursing Service. On January 10, 1919, Delano arrived in Brest for an inspection tour. Two Navy nurses assigned to the U.S.S. *George Washington* escorted Delano to

meet the first of “her nurses” remaining in Europe. Van Ingen worried about base conditions since the weather included “sleet, snow, rain and the penetrating cold that seems to belong just to Brest.” The medical director and chief nurse drove Delano to the Army bases around Brest.

The next day, Delano spoke to all the Navy nurses of Base#1. Van Ingen wrote: “She told them how her heart had been with each one, how she wished she might have shared all their discomforts, that she welcomed the bad weather she was encountering as it gave her a better idea of what those in France had to endure. It was a talk such as one comrade would have had with another, not a hint at criticism or supervision... just encouragement and approbation...”

These fortunate Navy nurses were among the last to have contact with Jane Delano. By January 21, she was under the care of doctors at American Red Cross Military Hospital #1. Against advice, she returned to her inspections in mid-February. By February 21, she had the first mastoid surgery at Savenay Hospital Center, followed by three more procedures. She rallied several times but died April 15, 1919.

Navy nurses who died during WWI are honored today in the garden at Red Cross Square in Washington. American nurses raised the funds for the memorial dedicated “To Jane Delano and the 296 Nurses Who Died in the War.” Designed by R. Tait McKenzie, a physician, WWI veteran and artist, the work is called *Mercy, the Spirit of Nursing*.

Should You Maximize Charitable Deductions in 2017? Candace Roosevelt, MAN, MBA

People give to charities for many reasons besides tax savings; however, the tax benefit enables donors to *do more* with their generosity. While it’s difficult to predict the course of future federal tax legislation, some tax advisers are telling clients that the tax rewards for charitable giving may never be better than they are right now, in 2017.

2017 could be a good time to follow through with important gifts you may have been considering, especially gifts of highly-appreciated securities. Donors who give stocks owned more than one year can deduct the cost of their stocks, plus any “paper profit” – and avoid capital gains taxes and net

investment income taxes, as well.

To learn more about this charitable giving option please contact Candace Roosevelt, Gift Planning Officer, at 617-306-3875 or Candace.roosevelt@redcross.org.

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



Help us get in touch with and recognize 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. 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!