



Red Cross Needs 1,000's of Volunteers to Help Install 100,000 Free Smoke Alarms Across the U.S. in 16 Days

Molly Dalton

The American Red Cross is calling for 1,000's of volunteers to [Sound the Alarm](#) against home fires and help install 100,000 free smoke alarms in just 16 days in communities across the country which have a high risk for fires.

Sound the Alarm is part of the ongoing Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, launched in 2014 and already credited with saving 348 lives across the country as of January 31, 2018.



Patrick Smiley and George Dunn installed a smoke alarm mounting ring. With staff and volunteers, the Red Cross canvassed the community with fire safety materials and installed smoke alarms in underserved/military connected neighborhoods around the Fort Bragg area in Fayetteville, NC, with a goal of installing 1500 smoke alarms. Photo by Adam Jennings/American Red Cross.

[HOME FIRE CAMPAIGN SAVING LIVES:](#)

Every day 7 people in this country die from a home fire.

Another 36 people are injured.

And home fires cause billions of dollars in property damage every year. The multi-year Red Cross Home Fire Campaign was

launched to reduce the number of fire-related deaths and injuries by 25 percent. As part of the

campaign, Red Cross volunteers and partners canvass high-risk neighborhoods to install free

smoke alarms, replace batteries in

existing alarms and help families create escape plans. In addition to helping save lives, the Red Cross and partners have installed more than 1.1 million smoke alarms since the start of the campaign.

HOW TO HELP: The Red Cross and its partners will be out in communities between April 28 and May 13 to install 100,000 free smoke alarms. You can help by visiting [SoundTheAlarm.org](#) and volunteering or making a financial donation. Find events in your local community where you can help or to learn [how your donation will help](#) educate families on fire safety; install free smoke alarms in high-risk neighborhoods nationwide; and provide food, comfort and aid to those who have been affected by a home fire.

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.

March is Red Cross Month: Be a Hero to Someone in Need

Molly Dalton

It's Red Cross Month and the American Red Cross is asking people across the country to become a hero by giving blood or becoming a volunteer.

People can also make a donation and be a hero to someone in need. [They can #help1family on Giving Day](#) – March 28 – by making a financial donation to help provide hope and relief to people who need it most.

The Red Cross is honoring our volunteers during Red Cross Month and asks you to consider joining

us and making a difference. This year the Red Cross salutes all the heroes who make a difference in their communities by:

- Donating blood or platelets
- Volunteering to help people impacted by a disaster
- Taking a first aid or CPR class to help in an emergency
- Providing comfort to a member of the military, a veteran or their family

WHAT WE DO The Red Cross has been helping

people in need for more than 130 years. And much of our work is accomplished through the work of our volunteers. The Red Cross:

- Responds to nearly 64,000 disasters across the country providing hope and comfort to people in need.
- Trains and provides information to nearly 5.9 million people in first aid, water safety and other skills that help save lives.
- Collects nearly 4.9 million units of blood from more than 2.8 million volunteer donors to meet the needs of patients at hospitals and transfusion centers across the country.
- Provides nearly 391,000 support services to military members, veterans and their families.
- Helps more than 181 million people outside the U.S. through disaster management and disease prevention efforts.



American Red Cross volunteer nurses Summer and Toni provide support to a resident of Immokalee, Florida after Hurricane Irma. Red Cross volunteer nurses were onsite providing health screenings – primary concerns were low blood sugar and dehydration. Photo by Daniel Cima for the American Red Cross.

GIVING DAY The Red Cross is asking everyone to support families impacted by disaster and #help1family on Giving Day – Wednesday, March 28. Your donation can help provide hope and urgent relief such as food, blankets and other essentials to people who need it most. Giving Day is a 24-hour fundraising campaign supporting the work of the Red Cross, helping people across the country in need of emergency assistance. Donate now by

visiting <http://www.redcross.org/donations/ways-to-donate/giving-day> or by texting REDCROSS to 90999 to give \$10.

During March, be a hero and join the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross. More information is available on how you can help through [your local Red Cross chapter](#) or you can learn more about the many ways to help on redcross.org.

Nursing and Health Information Updated on Red Cross Website

Linda MacIntyre, PhD, RN

[Nursing and Health](#) information on the Red Cross website, www.RedCross.org has been updated and refreshed. It is now much easier to find information on volunteer opportunities, the Nursing Network, Awards and Recognition, News and Advocacy, Academic Service Learning, and Nursing and Health Partners. The [History of Red Cross Nursing](#) has been updated in the Red Cross history section

and linked to the Nursing and Health pages. Many thanks to Wilma McDaniel and Catherine Wetendorf for their excellent work. For questions about Red Cross nursing, health professional volunteer opportunities and Academic Service Learning, please contact RedCrossNurse@redcross.org.

Contest Deadline Extended for Red Cross Health Professional Volunteers

The American Red Cross Los Angeles Region has extended the search for stories from Red Cross Health Professional Volunteers to March 31, and added a Tiffany & Co. Val St Lambert designed crystal 4 1/2" x 3" American Flag in the blue box along with a collectible Red Cross pin as first prize. Winner(s) will also be highlighted in a Red Cross nationally distributed Health Professional Volunteer Recruitment video.

about a moment when you felt like you were helping others the most. All stories are welcome and we hope you will share yours. You may also send a short video (90 seconds or less, please) to accompany your written story.

The deadline for initial submissions is extended to March 31, 2018. Please e-mail your submission to RedCrossNurse@redcross.org with the word "CONTEST" typed in the subject line.

We are soliciting stories from Red Cross Health Professional Volunteers. In your role as a Red Cross Health Professional Volunteer, please tell us

DISCLAIMER: By submitting your entry to this contest, whether selected as a finalist or not, your story may be shared or otherwise rightfully shared without payment.

Doctoral Student Nurse from Japan Visits American Red Cross Yvonne Smith, RN

The Red Cross has many nursing students helping in various ways with its mission. But not many travel across the planet to seek out another national Red Cross to work on their doctoral dissertation. Marina Inagaki is a registered nurse, a public health nurse and a doctoral student in the Disaster Nursing Global Leader Degree Program at the University of Hyogo, Graduate School of Nursing, and she did just that.

In March, 2017, she traveled from Japan to Seattle, Washington to work with the American Red Cross and other organizations on her research. Inagaki stated that her research work is related to “life and health conditions of the elderly who stayed at home and suffered from disaster-[exacerbated] diseases about a month after the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake.” In her doctoral dissertation she has undertaken the development of assessment tools to screen vulnerable populations after disaster.

Susan Denavit, BSN, RN, Nursing Network Pacific Division Nurse Leader asked Yvonne Smith, RN, Regional Nurse Leader to reach out to Marina Inagaki while she was in Seattle. Smith arranged a luncheon at the Columbia Tower Club in downtown Seattle to introduce Inagaki to a few Red Cross volunteers who could assist her with her research.



Yvonne Smith and other Red Cross volunteers met Marina Inagaki for lunch and presented her with a Red Cross Nurse pin.

his wife Lyla Anderson, who is from Japan.

After that introductory lunch, Inagaki worked with Denise Smith from the Northwest Region office. This gave her exposure to Mass Care and the opportunity to visit an evacuation center for

residents who lost power from an explosion at their apartment complex.

Inagaki learned about roles and functions of the American Red Cross and how we share information electronically with Red Cross volunteers and partners through our Client Assistance System and the Coordinated Assistance Network. She observed that this was beneficial to the clients. She said, “in



From left to right: Denise Smith, Yvonne Smith and Marina Inagaki at the Northwest Region office in Seattle.

Japan, most of the responders still use paper-based tools to share information.” She saw the benefit of Red Cross apps for clients, volunteers and the general population. She learned about the Emergency Support Functions used in the United States and the organizational charts for disaster services. She now understands the role the American Red Cross takes as a support agency.

While she was following a nurse for the shelter experience, she was impressed by the education the RN gave to diabetic clients about nutrition, as there were many snacks and the nurse helped them make good choices. She also remarked on the care given to residents who needed oxygen, and the recorded confidential documents made by the RN. Inagaki thought the material and human resources were excellent.

She was impressed with the way all organizations follow the Incident Command System. In Japan, she said that each organization has different command systems, so they must clarify who is commander before they can start to respond to a situation. She liked how we collaborate with public administration and have a liaison between the Red Cross and city hall. She attended a Mass Care meeting with participants from FEMA and King County.

Inagaki’s research on the elderly people whose chronic diseases worsened after the Kumamoto disaster is her focus and she was looking forward to sharing it after returning to Japan. She said that in Japan, chronic diseases exacerbated by disasters have led to numerous deaths. She noted that this is still an ambiguous phenomenon for both the United States and Japan. She will continue with her research once she returns to Japan.

It was a pleasure to work with Marina Inagaki and we were happy to help with her international research. Hopefully, the ideas she took back to Japan with her from the time she spent in the U.S.

will serve her well in her future disaster nursing leadership role. It is truly wonderful to meet such impressive and dedicated nursing students and volunteers through the Red Cross.

Answering the Call: The American Red Cross in World War I Jean Shulman, RN

An exhibit commemorating the centennial of the Great War is on display along the corridor walls of the American Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C. From the



Red Cross nurses waiting to sail to Europe on the "Mercy Ship" in 1914, from a panel in the exhibit.

SS Red Cross "Mercy Ship" of 1914 to the post-war relief commissions in Europe, the exhibit tells the multi-dimensional story of the American Red Cross during World War I.

The historic National Headquarters building, a Beaux Arts edifice often called the Marble Palace, is the perfect setting for this display of American Red Cross heritage. Dedicated on May 12, 1917, barely a month after the United States entered the war, the building housed the leadership and hosted the volunteer decision-makers as the American Red Cross answered the call.

General John J. Pershing, Commander-in Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, wrote, "When I think of the American Red Cross, I think of the great army of nurses who went with us to France in 1918 to care for the battle wounded. I recall the important part played by the Red Cross workers in maintaining the high morale of our troops. Most of us will remember the work of the Red Cross at home-fighting the great epidemic of influenza and a score of other responsibilities born of war."

Under the direction of Henry P. Davison and the Red Cross War Council and Mabel Boardman's



Women's Advisory Committee, American Red Cross, 1918.

Women's Advisory Committee, millions of volunteers responded to a wide array of new responsibilities required by an America at war.

Archivist Susan Robbins Watson created a series of panels to describe the services developed to support our military at home and abroad. She tells the story using photographs, posters, artifacts, uniforms and medals, all of which add to the understanding of the Red Cross roles during the war. Women found new opportunities by serving in the canteen corps, motor corps, hospital and recreation corps, camp service, production service and home service.



This woman in the Motor Corps wore pants.

Nurses visiting the National Headquarters building will learn about the life of Jane Delano and her role in the creation of the first organized service of the Red Cross, the Nursing Service, in 1909. Through her efforts, when the U.S. declared war on April 6, 1917, there were 8,000 professional nurses ready for assignment. By the Armistice on November 11, 1918, the Red Cross had certified 23,800 women to serve as a ready reserve of professional nurses.

The exhibit honors the American Red Cross nurse in many ways. It recognizes her work in home defense, public health, disaster, civilian relief and overseas duty.



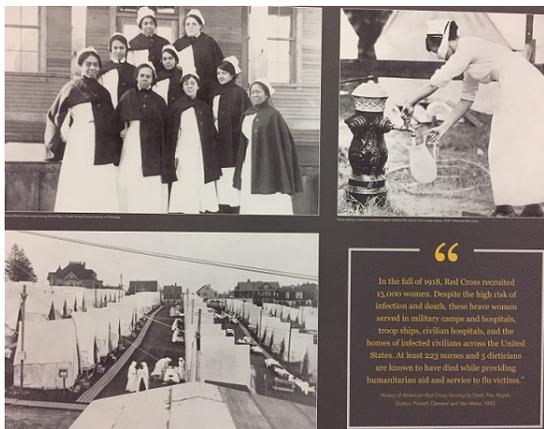
Florence Nightingale Medal Recipient Alma Foerster embodies the breadth of the Nursing Service. She responded to the flood disasters in 1913, served with the Kiev unit in



The panel about Alma Foerster depicts her at a Russian hospital ward where she served as a Red Cross nurse and on her way to Romania wearing her Red Cross pin and includes a postcard to her mother from Russia.

1914, and nursed with the special relief commissions to Romania and Russia in 1917-1919. After a long career in public health nursing and teaching Red Cross classes, she informed national headquarters at the start of World War II, “if you need me...I am ready, abroad or at home.”

Nurses with similar experiences volunteered with commissions to Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Palestine and the Near East, the Balkans and Greece. All fought the war against famine and disease while caring for refugee families. Most had already served in France or Great Britain and all deserved the honors they received.



The influenza pandemic panel includes a photo of African American nurses in WWI, a nurse wearing a mask as protection against influenza, and a special hospital for the influenza epidemic.

care for influenza patients as did others sent to Camp Grant, IL and Camp Sevier, SC. Home Defense nurses, students and laywomen joined the 15,000 women needed to address the deadly influenza epidemic at home.

The Notable Red Crossers panel includes Henry Ossawa Tanner, the first African American painter to win international acclaim. His subjects include

WGU Supporting Red Cross, Offering Education Discount

Anita Wolfe

Recently, Western Governors University (WGU) gave the American Red Cross a check for \$50,000 to show support and help during the holiday season. In addition to holding blood drives, this employee-matching fundraiser for disaster relief showed the great results the



images of African American soldiers and many scenes around Neufchateau and the front, including a Red Cross canteen.



The panel about notable Red Crossers includes this image of Henry Ossawa Tanner and one of his oil paintings from 1918, entitled “Intersection of Roads, Neufchateau”, which depicts the exterior of a Red Cross canteen.

Other panels include the establishment of the Junior Red Cross, the Canteen, Motor and

Productions Corps, and the Gray Ladies, started at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington. Less known but very important, 400 Red Cross Searchers collected information and communicated the fate of wounded or missing soldiers as well as prisoners of war to 400,000 families, providing remarkable comfort and closure to them. Also, the Red Cross offered rehabilitation, education and vocational training to disabled veterans after the war as well as “portrait masks” to help former soldiers cope with their disfigurements. Home Service workers assisted with benefits and social services.

Free guided tours are available on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 and 2 o’clock at the American Red Cross National Headquarters Building, 430 17th Street, NW. Please make reservations by emailing tours@redcross.org. The exhibit runs through 2020.

On September 5, 2017, columnist John Kelly published an article in The Washington Post about the exhibit: [Remembering the great things that the Red Cross did during the Great War.](#)

collaboration between WGU and the Red Cross can produce to benefit individuals in need.

WGU offers special benefits to Red Cross employees and volunteers. Classes start the first of every month. A 5% tuition discount, a scholarship offer, and an application fee waiver are offered twice per year to volunteers and year-round for employees. This offer is valid for all degree programs, including nursing/health professions, business, IT or teaching. Available here: WGU.edu/redcross.

Rita Mahoney Grady Receives Ann Magnussen Award

Linda MacIntyre, PhD, RN

Rita Mahoney Grady was presented with the Ann Magnussen Award at the American Red Cross National Awards Ceremony on February 28, 2018. 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 individual nursing achievement in the American Red Cross.



Rita Mahoney Grady receives the Ann Magnussen Award from Linda MacIntyre and Gail McGovern. Photo by Dennis Drenner/American Red Cross.

Grady's nomination was supported by Diane St. Denis, Pacific Division Disaster Health Services Advisor and the Gold Country Region. Grady has been a Red Cross volunteer since 1986 and deployed 31 times to national disasters. She was 87 when she last deployed. She has Bachelor's degrees in Nursing and Vocational Education, and a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration. She has been a nurse for 66 years.

Grady's strengths are in education and developing systems to better serve Red Cross clients. An example is the "Nurse on Call Quick Notes," a step-by-step guidance she developed to help nurses be more effective in meeting client needs, which has the added benefit of increasing volunteer satisfaction.

When the Public Health Department called upon the Red Cross to provide community education due to the water shortage in California, Rita worked with nursing students to provide community

outreach and education. She quickly responded to implement workable plans that met community needs and strengthened the Red Cross partnership with the Public Health Department.

After Superstorm Sandy, Ms. Grady served on an Integrated Care Condolence Team. The team visited a man whose sister died when storm surge invaded her home. The man told stories of his escape on 9/11 and of his sister. The team listened and offered comfort. He told them, "What I value most is that you listen." Ms. Grady says that often people are too busy to hear the stories of grieving individuals, and this is very needed. It's not easy work; however, listening is one of Ms. Grady's greatest gifts.

For over 11 years, Ms. Grady has supervised Academic Service Learning volunteers at the Red Cross. Under her direction, one group of students compiled a resource list of all the pharmacies in the area so that medications could be replaced more quickly. Another group located community resources across 24 counties. Because of these actions, clients are better served.

Ms. Grady encourages nurses to be involved in all lines of service, supporting One Red Cross. She welcomes event-based volunteers and provides them with training to be effective in their roles. As a mentor, she leads with kindness and a delightful sense of humor. Ms. Grady's compassion and humanitarian spirit is evident in all her interactions.

Sharing the News: Awards and Recognition

Marjorie DesRosier, PhD, RN, nurse historian and past member of the Red Cross National Nursing Committee, was featured in a French documentary entitled "Josephine H." that was broadcast in January on a popular French TV program. The starting point of the documentary is a WWI-era bracelet found in 2002 by a schoolchild in a playground in the village of Rimacourt, France. The bracelet identified its owner as Josephine Heffernan, Chief Nurse, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, American Base Hospital No. 59.

Years later - nearly 100 years after WWI - the bracelet was rediscovered by the student's teacher, who wanted to know more about Heffernan. The film documents DesRosier's international search for Heffernan's personal history, the discovery of her living descendants and the return of the bracelet to them.

Read a brief version of the [story](#) (in English) or watch the [documentary](#) (in French, without English subtitles).

Mary Yoshino, FNP, a Red Cross nurse who deployed to Houston after Hurricane Harvey this fall, was interviewed for an article in Johnson & Johnson's *Nursing Notes*, entitled "Disaster

Response Gives Retired Nurse New Purpose."

Read the inspiring [article](#).

Why Use Retirement Assets for Charitable Giving?

Candace Roosevelt, MAN, MBA

Consider two scenarios:

1. You designate your children as beneficiaries of your IRA or qualified retirement plan, while in your will or living trust you designate the Red Cross to receive a gift of appreciated stock. At your death the distributions to your children will be subject to income tax and, if received in a lump sum, could push them into a higher tax bracket. Meanwhile the Red Cross receives the stock and can use the full amount in support of its work.

2. In your will or living trust you direct for the appreciated stock to be given to your children, while the Red Cross is designated as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. At your passing your children receive a step up in basis on the stock, and as a result, do not pay capital gains tax. Meanwhile the Red Cross receives the distribution from the IRA/retirement plan, but because of its tax-exempt status pays no income tax and can use the full amount in support of its work.

While the gift to the Red Cross is the same in either scenario, your children receive more with option 2

because there is no income tax owed when the distribution from the retirement plan goes to the Red Cross as opposed to your children. When deciding which assets to use to make a charitable gift, it makes sense to look to your retirement assets.

Even if retirement assets make up a sizeable part of your estate, you can still use those assets for purposes of making charitable gifts. Simply designate a percentage or dollar amount for the charity, and designate the remaining amount or percentage to individuals.

For information on making a charitable gift with retirement plan assets 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; Committee Members/Contributors: Molly Dalton; Bill Darr; Donna Dorsey; Marie Etienne; Donna Jensen; 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. Go to <http://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/nursing-health/nursing-network> and select a link under "View Previous Issues of Nursing Matters."

Thank you!