



Bringing Hope

to the Heart of Texas



American Red Cross
Serving the Heart of Texas

Annual Update
July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Rooted in Resilience: A Message from the Heart of Texas

This year marks a time of reflection and transition for the Heart of Texas Chapter of the American Red Cross. As we celebrate a year of service and resilience, we also honor the service of our Executive Director, **Jennifer Young**, who served as our Executive Director for most of FY25.

Celebrating Leadership and Service

Jennifer joined the Red Cross in December 2022, bringing a spirit of compassion and dedication to her role. Her time with the Heart of Texas Chapter was marked by steady guidance, frequent disaster deployments, and a deep care for both the people we serve and the teams who make that service possible. As she transitions into a new role within Disaster Services, we celebrate her legacy and thank her for the lasting contributions she made to our chapter and our communities.

A Message from Jennifer

“It’s been an incredible honor to serve the Heart of Texas Chapter and work alongside such dedicated volunteers, staff, and community partners. I’m deeply grateful for the relationships built and the impact we’ve made together—especially during times when our communities needed us most. The resilience, compassion, and unwavering commitment I’ve witnessed here have left a lasting impression on me.

While I’ve stepped into a new role within Disaster Cycle Services, my heart remains with this amazing chapter. The Heart of Texas is home, and I carry forward the lessons, memories, and spirit of service that define this team. Thank you for the support, the memories, and the continued commitment to our mission. I look forward to seeing the incredible work you’ll continue to do—and cheering you on every step of the way.”

Continuing the Mission

As we look ahead, the Heart of Texas Chapter remains deeply committed to the core services that define our impact: responding to disasters with urgency and compassion, preventing home fire tragedies through education and outreach, and supporting military families through our Service to the Armed Forces program. While leadership transitions, our mission endures — powered by dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and resilient communities. Together, we continue to serve with heart, purpose, and unity.

With Gratitude

With deep appreciation for the past and hope for the future, we remain committed to serving our communities with compassion and unity.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

The Heart of Texas Chapter Team

American Red Cross Heart of Texas Board of Directors

Guiding Our Mission, Strengthening Our Impact

Red Cross Chapter Boards of Directors play a vital role in shaping strategy, supporting fundraising efforts, and ensuring services meet the needs of the community. Their leadership and commitment are at the heart of everything we accomplish.

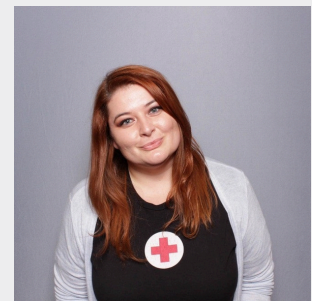
Board Officers

Pamela Smits, Chair
Rick Kattner, Vice Chair
Ronald (Rusty) Surette, Secretary

Board Members

Zachary Bumbaugh
Valen Cepak
Jason Cornelius
Jim Ellor
Jeb Leutwyler
Brigadier General (Ret.) Joe Ramirez

"As we reflect on a year of unexpected challenges, I want to thank you for your unwavering support and leadership. It was an honor to serve as Interim Executive Director. Your steady guidance, resilience, and commitment ensured we stayed mission-focused. You lead, you inspire, and you persevere—and I'm deeply grateful to have worked alongside you."



Nellia Jones
Interim Executive Director (May-July, 2025),
Heart of Texas Chapter



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The Heart of Texas chapter serves almost 1.4 million people in:

**Bell, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Coryell, Falls, Freestone, Grimes,
Hamilton, Hill, Lampasas, Leon, Limestone, McLennan, Madison,
Robertson, and Washington counties**

Impact of the Red Cross serving the Heart of Texas Fiscal Year 2025



Emergency Response

Helping during people's darkest hours

400 Households Served
1,000 People Helped
\$298,000 In Financial Aid



Home Fire Campaign

Making Homes Safer

770 Free Smoke Alarms installed (13 specialty
alarms for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing)
250 Households made safer



Biomed Services

Making sure blood is available where
it's needed, when it's needed

90 Blood Drives
2,500 Red Blood Cell Units Collected
1,200 Donors (370 First-time donors)



Service to the Armed Forces

Assisting service members, veterans,
and their families

1,800 SAF Cases
7,200 Case Services



Education and Training

Providing skills and knowledge to
prevent and respond to accidents and
injury

460 Preparedness Training (youth)
7,800 Trained in First Aid, CPR, AED
3,500 Trained in Aquatics/Water Safety



Volunteers

Working at home, across the country,
and around the world to bring help
and hope

90% of all Red Crossers are volunteers
360 Volunteers
6,200 Hours of Service

*Numbers have been
rounded for readability.*

Red Cross Disaster Responses in Central Texas

375 Home Fires

18 Weather-Related Emergencies

9 Other Emergencies

Heart of Texas Chapter Highlights

Community Engagement & Volunteer Development

Supporting Veterans at Operation Stand Down

Heart of Texas volunteers joined Operation Stand Down to support homeless veterans with hygiene kits and essential resources. The event offered meals, medical screenings, and clothing—bringing dignity and care to those who've served. We're proud to stand beside our veterans and help meet their needs with compassion.



Volunteers provide hygiene kits to homeless veterans



Alan McMillin with community members and partners in Lansing

Building Our Volunteer Team

In September, the Heart of Texas Chapter trained 43 new attendees through preparedness workshops and celebrated two new DAT responders with Red Vest ceremonies. With new Duty Officers and a chapter social, the team continues to grow and strengthen its capacity to serve.

Spreading Cheer at the Christmas Parade

Volunteers from the Heart of Texas Chapter brought holiday magic to the College Station Christmas Parade with their festive float, "Elf Reinforcements." Their joyful spirit helped light up the season and connect with the community in a fun and meaningful way.



The "Elf Reinforcements" prepare to join the parade

"From veterans to volunteers to holiday parades, our Heart of Texas team shows up with compassion, commitment, and community spirit."

Lifesaving Actions



Honorees receive the Red Cross Life-Saving award

Lifesaving Heroes in Temple

In April, the Heart of Texas Chapter honored three Temple Parks & Recreation staff with the Red Cross Lifesaving Award. Their quick action saved a woman who collapsed at a local pool. Thanks to their training and teamwork, she regained a pulse before EMS arrived.

Emergency Response at UMHB

Students and staff at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor were recognized with the Red Cross Lifesaving Award for saving a peer who collapsed while lifting weights. Their swift response and teamwork made all the difference in a life-threatening moment.



University of Mary Hardin-Baylor students and staff accept award



*www.redcrossblood.org
to schedule an appointment*

Blood Drives That Save Lives

With 92 blood drives and over 2,500 red cell units collected in FY25, the Heart of Texas Chapter helped ensure lifesaving blood was available when it mattered most. We're especially proud of the 368 first-time donors who stepped up to give the gift of life.

“Whether saving lives in a moment of crisis or through the gift of blood, our volunteers and partners make a lasting impact every day.”



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Serving the Heart of Texas

To learn more and support the mission as a donor or volunteer,
please visit:
redcross.org/CentralandSouthTexas

or use this QR Code



American Red Cross Serving the Heart of Texas

Offices

Heart of Texas North

6801 Sanger Ave, Ste. 228A
Waco, TX 76710

Heart of Texas South

4244 Boonville Road
Bryan, TX 77802

Fort Cavazos

36000 Darnall Loop #1039
Fort Cavazos, TX 76544

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