



# Bringing Hope

to the Texas Hill Country



**American Red Cross**  
Serving the Texas Hill Country

**Annual Update**  
**July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025**

## A Message from the Executive Director

Debbie Zabica, Executive Director, Texas Hill Country

***“Your partnership with the American Red Cross truly makes all the difference.”***

Dear Friends,

I wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your steadfast commitment to the American Red Cross serving the Texas Hill Country. **Your generous contributions of time and financial support significantly impact the lives of countless individuals in our region.**

When emergencies strike, whether they are large-scale disasters or smaller crises, we stand ready to alleviate human suffering. Our dedicated team works tirelessly around the clock, 365 days a year, ensuring that help reaches those who need it most. From providing emergency financial assistance to offering comfort and hope, we are there for our community when it matters most.

Our chapter responds swiftly to disasters like home fires, wildfires, flash flooding and tornadoes where we provide immediate aid to affected residents. The Hill Country Chapter proudly deployed volunteers and staff beyond our region to support communities facing disaster. Our teams answered the call during:

- Wildfires that devastated Maui
- Wildfires in the Texas Panhandle
- Flooding and tornadoes across Texas this spring and summer

**Whether through volunteers, supplies, or direct support, we were there to assist.**

As part of our commitment to military families, we offer unwavering assistance to members of the U.S. military, veterans, and their loved ones. Whether it is connecting families during times of crisis or supporting veterans through rehabilitation, we stand by those who serve our country.

I invite you to explore our annual impact report from Fiscal Year 2025. It highlights the incredible ways we have made a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

**Your support has been instrumental in achieving these milestones, and we hope it fills you with pride and fulfillment.**

Sincerely,



Debbie Zabica  
Executive Director  
Serving the Texas Hill Country

# American Red Cross Texas Hill Country 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

Joi Sanders, Board Chair

Dawn Water, Vice Chair

Debbie Sultemeier, Secretary

### Board Members

Caryn Crump

Dennis Finuf

Andrew Gay

T. Layng Guerriero

Ken Thomas

Paula Wilson

*"This past year, our Board of Directors stood by us with steady hands and big hearts. Thanks to their guidance and generosity, the Texas Hill Country chapter kept growing and doing good work in our communities.*

*We couldn't have done it without the board's clear vision and deep commitment to our community."*

**Thank you!**



Debbie Zabica  
Executive Director, Texas Hill Country





**American Red Cross**  
Serving the Texas Hill Country

The American Red Cross serving the Texas Hill Country serves more than  
408,000 people in:

**Bandera, Blanco, Crockett, Edwards, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr,  
Kimble, Kinney, Mason, Maverick, Medina, Menard, Real, Sutton,  
Terrell, Uvalde, and Val Verde Counties**

## **Impact of the Red Cross serving the Texas Hill Country Fiscal Year 2025**



### **Emergency Response**

Helping during people's darkest  
hours

**80** Households Served  
**200** People Helped  
**\$64,000** In Financial Aid

### **Home Fire Campaign**

Making Homes Safer

**492** Free Smoke Alarms installed  
(including 5 specialty alarms for the Deaf  
or hard of hearing)  
**164** Households made safer



### **Service to the Armed Forces**

Assisting service members,  
veterans, and their families

**220** SAF Cases  
**890** Case Services



### **Education and Training**

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

**432** Preparedness Training (youth)  
**2,000** Trained in First Aid, CPR, AED  
**400** Trained in Aquatics/Water Safety  
**248** Be Red Cross Ready Programing &  
Hands only CPR training



### **Volunteers**

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

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

## **Red Cross Disaster Responses in the Texas Hill Country**

**71** Home Fires

**7** Wildfires

**6** Weather-Related Emergencies

# Red Cross Ready Communities

a tale of resilience and renewal

## Texas Hill Country Chapter Highlights

### Building Resilience in Medina County

The Ready Community initiative in Medina County brought together local partners to strengthen preparedness and safety across Hondo and surrounding areas.

- Trained Hondo Elementary School counselors to deliver Prepare with Pedro to young students
- Medina County Health Department staff trained in smoke alarm installation, sheltering, and disaster response
- Meals on Wheels volunteers surveyed clients and began installing alarms and distributing safety materials
- City of Hondo Library hosted a Be Red Cross Ready session in March
- Finalist for Hondo Non-Profit of the Year



*Prepare with Pedro: Medina County Health Department*



*Sound the Alarm Event with the Hondo Volunteer Fire Department & Medina County Health Department*

### Kerr County: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Kerr County's Ready Community efforts focused on outreach to veterans, seniors, and families through trusted local partners.

- Meals on Wheels staff and volunteers trained and installing smoke alarms
- Be Red Cross Ready presentations delivered to BCFS clients and Habitat for Humanity families
- Sound the Alarm event held with Ingram Volunteer Fire Department on March 8
- Increased Red Cross presence at Kerrville VA Hospital, including volunteer recruitment and a donated golf cart



*Sound the Alarm Event at Dietert Center, partnering with Meals on Wheels*



*Kerrville Events – Doyle Center & Kerrville VA*

***“We’re not just preparing for emergencies.  
We’re building stronger, safer communities”***



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Serving the Texas Hill Country

To learn more and support the mission as a donor or volunteer,  
please visit:

[redcross.org/CentralandSouthTexas](https://redcross.org/CentralandSouthTexas)

or use this QR Code



## **American Red Cross Serving the Texas Hill Country Offices in:**

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