

RED ALERTS!

Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed

ON THE HORIZON

■ April – [Minority Health Month](#)

■ April – [Month of the Military Child](#)

■ April – National Volunteer Month

■ April 3 – [National Public Health Week](#)

■ April 5 – [Gold Star Spouses Day](#)

■ April 7 – [World Health Day](#)

■ April 9 – Easter

■ April 16 – [National Volunteer Week begins](#)

April 22 – [Earth Day](#)

35

Disaster responses in March. Clients helped: 119

MILESTONES

SUE KLEEBURG, 10 years

JOHN SCHLICHENMAYER, 10 years

BILL CHAPMAN, 5 years

MICHELE THIES, 5 years

JO EGBERT, 5 years

REBECCA KING, 5 years

JEANNE KISSMAN, 5 years

BETTY ROBERTSON, 5 years

NANCY THOMPSON, 5 years

VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Celebrating your Red Cross anniversary this quarter? If so, then watch for a Volunteer Satisfaction Survey. The next round goes out April 12 and will arrive via email with the subject line “We need your feedback” and helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can improve.



William DeJong, pictured here with his family, received more than 100 units of blood after being seriously injured in a dairy farming accident. He underwent two dozen surgeries. “If people didn’t give blood, I wouldn’t be here today,” the Wendell, Idaho, man said.

‘I NEEDED A LOT OF BLOOD’

Blood donors give Idaho man severely injured in accident a second chance

Among the medical professionals, helicopter pilot, cool-headed dairy manager and others who came to the rescue after his horrific injury, William DeJong owes his life to generous blood donors he’ll likely never meet.

“If people didn’t give blood, I wouldn’t be here today,” he said. “I’m 100 percent thankful for the ones whose blood I received, especially with my blood type. I needed a lot of blood.”

The Wendell, Idaho, dairy farmer received upwards of 104 units of blood during his three-month intensive care stay, two-dozen surgeries and two amputations.

William, 48, was having a busy morning moving cows around the farm and hurrying to wrap up work so he could take the family to their cabin. He jumped into a pen and didn’t notice the feed truck backing up. The 30-ton truck ran over him in two directions.

“All pandemonium broke loose,” William said. “I could feel myself bleeding to death from broken femurs. My feeder was crying he’d killed his boss. Everybody was just frozen.”

The dairy manager called 911 and asked for a helicopter. Even so, William didn’t arrive at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls for an hour.

He had no blood pressure and was “basically dead,” he said. William remained in a coma for 2½ weeks. He went through 24 surgeries, had a broken collarbone, and lost his left leg below the knee and later the right leg, too. The medical center treated him much like a burn victim, with skin grafts and sessions in a hyperbaric chamber.

William needed scores of transfusions during a blood shortage, and he needed an unusual type. His hemoglobin levels would drop as he battled infections, and he’d need yet more.

William’s family stepped forward as blood donors during his ordeal, too.

William and his wife, Renee, have three

SEE BLOOD, PAGE 3

We appreciate your dedication

With National Volunteer Appreciation Week just around the corner, we want to take a moment and thank you for continuing to answer the call as the heart and soul of the Red Cross of Idaho, Montana and East Oregon. We know this work is never easy, but you continue to rise to the challenge through your tireless commitment to the communities we serve.

Because of you, last year we provided help and hope to more than 1,300 people following disasters like home fires and wildfires, including our months-long response to historic Montana flooding. As we head into another round of possible flooding and wildfire season, we will be calling



on you again and we know you will be ready.

Through client casework, reconnection workshops and our emergency communications program, our Service to the Armed Forces team delivered support to 3,340 military families. Your

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 2

Time to take inventory of your assistance cards

Card inventory time, read about our volunteer position of the month and learn how you can support us at tax time below.

CARD REPORTING TIME: The quarterly inventory of client assistance and mission cards is underway. The reporting window is open April 1-16.

By now you should have received an email with the link to the easy online form (<https://forms.office.com/r/GWKisVdChp>) and helpful FAQs.

If you have problems reporting, contact angela.james2@redcross.org. To successfully report, you will need the following information on the envelopes containing cards: batch number, envelope number, and last four digits of the proxy number.

Thank you for making this process smooth and successful for our region.

POSITION OF THE MONTH: Help support our military families with this Service to the Armed Forces volunteer opportunity. These volunteers provide support to recruits and their families while they are processing at the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS).

This position requires participation in in-person activities and/or performing work in a Red Cross facility.

Locations:
Ada County, Boise County, Canyon County, Elmore County, Gem County and Payette County

Responsibilities:

- Liaise on site with the MEPS staff to determine the best means for the Red



Cross to connect with the recruits and families.

- Provide Red Cross preparedness information to the recruits and their families.
- Engage with the recruits to fill out family contact cards
- Ensure cards are processed into the Red Cross casework system
- Provide additional support.

Are you or someone you know a great fit? Contact IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org for more information.

SUPPORT US AT TAX TIME:
Please consider supporting the Red Cross of Idaho as you file your taxes this year. The Idaho individual income tax form provides an easy way to donate money and support our work in communities across the state.

These tax-deductible donations will stay in Idaho and help Red Cross provide disaster relief, collect and distribute lifesaving blood, support military members and their families, recruit, train and deploy volunteers and teach lifesaving skills like CPR and first aid.

Thank you.

DONATIONS. See instructions, page 9. I want to donate to:	
33. Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund	*
35. Special Olympics Idaho	*
37. American Red Cross of Idaho Fund	*
39. Idaho Foodbank Fund	*
41. TOTAL TAX PLUS DONATIONS. Add lines 32 through 40	



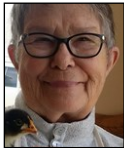
IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Diamond, a blood donor ambassador volunteer since 2016, passed away in early March at age 71. Barbara worked faithfully every Tuesday at the Boise Donor Center and often trained new donor ambassador volunteers. Barbara loved her work at the Red Cross and also enjoyed playing tennis.



Diamond

Elizabeth Chilcote, a longtime Red Cross volunteer from Hamilton, passed away on March 14 at age 80. A retired nurse, Elizabeth first got involved with the Red Cross in high school. She served our region as a Disaster Cycle Services volunteer including as a duty officer



Chilcote

“She was a very kind, very caring person,” said Beth Morris, Elizabeth’s friend and fellow Red Cross volunteer. “Anything she was asked to do, she would do it.”

Elizabeth’s husband Wayne also volunteers with Red Cross. Read her obituary here <https://www.dalyeachapel.com/obituary/Elizabeth-Chilcote>

Volunteers: Communities count on us

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kindness and compassion brightened some days and made difficult deployments just a little bit easier.

With the help of our community partners, we held more than 4,200 blood drives last year, and our biomedical volunteers greeted donors at these drives and delivered lifesaving blood to our labs so it can be tested and distributed to hospitals far and wide.

And our talented board members and community volunteer leaders continue

to help raise critical funds and tell our Red Cross story.

We also want to recognize the thousands of smaller tasks you do each year that are so easily forgotten but just as important – like the hours you spend behind a computer keeping up-to-date on your training.

Because of you, our friends and neighbors know they can count on us to deliver comfort and care when it’s needed most. We also want to thank your families for the sacrifices they make so you can help us fulfill our lifesaving mission.

We hope to thank you in person this month as we organize volunteer appreciation events across the region. Please check out the story below for dates, times, locations and information about how to RSVP for an event near you.

Though Volunteer Appreciation Week lasts only a few days, please know how much we value what you do, every day, all year long.

With gratitude,
— Regional CEO **Nicole Sirak Irwin**,
Montana Executive Director **Diane Wright** and Regional Donor Services Executive **Eric Horton**

We’re hitting the road to say thanks

Come on out and join us this month as we host 13 volunteer appreciation events across the region. We have food, T-shirts, presidential awards, prize drawings, pins to hand out and plenty of fun in store. Drop in and leave when you like.

We will also offer CPR certification classes for volunteers who have logged at least 20 hours.

These courses require an online portion that must be completed prior to the in-person class. We will send you a link to the online training once you register.

To RSVP for any of the volunteer appreciation events below and reserve your spot for the CPR class, visit [https://volunteerconnection.redcross.org/?](https://volunteerconnection.redcross.org/?nd=vms_public_form&form_id=12439)

[nd=vms_public_form&form_id=12439](https://volunteerconnection.redcross.org/?nd=vms_public_form&form_id=12439).
Note: Space is limited at the CPR classes so sign up early.

If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to IDMT.Vol@redcross.org.

We hope to see you there!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENTS

- Boise** – April 15, 4-6 p.m., CPR from 6-8 p.m, 5380 Franklin Road
- Baker City** – April 16, 2-4 p.m., CPR from noon-2 p.m., 1655 1st St.
- Lewiston** – April 17, 4-6 p.m., CPR from 6-8 p.m., 508 Thain Road
- Missoula** – April 18, 4-6 p.m., CPR from 6-8 p.m., 2401 N. Reserve St.
- Kalispell** – April 19, 4-6 p.m., CPR

- from 6-8 p.m., 126 N. Meridian Road
- Great Falls** – April 20, 4-6 p.m., CPR from 6-8 p.m., 2301 14th St. S.W.
- Helena** – April 21, 4-6 p.m., CPR from 6-8 p.m., 3150 N. Montana Ave.
- Billings** – April 22, 4-6 p.m., CPR from 6-8 p.m., 2173 Overland Ave. Parking and main entrance in the back
- Bozeman** – April 23, 4-6 p.m., CPR from 6-8 p.m., 221 E. Oak St. Suite 1G & 1F
- Idaho Falls** – April 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., no CPR, 1165 E. 17th St.
- Pocatello** – April 24, 4-6 p.m., CPR 6-8 p.m., 4155 Yellowstone Ave.
- Twin Falls** – April 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., CPR from 9-11 a.m., 539 Pole Line Road E.
- Boise** – April 25, 5-7 p.m., CPR from 7-9 p.m., 5380 Franklin Road

Two new members join our team

Join us in congratulating two new hires to our region – Winnie Lohof, our new regional direct services manager, and Jackie Slovak, our new regional philanthropy officer.

WINNIE LOHOF

Winnie, who lives in Missoula, has dedicated her life to helping others. She comes to Red Cross from the Missoula PATH program, which helps unhoused people find housing and support. Before that, she worked with the Talbot Boys Home, a therapeutic facility for boys with several emotional and behavioral disorders.

Winnie will oversee our region’s direct services programs including our disaster mental health, disaster health services and disaster spiritual care programs. She will also oversee our

duty officers and recovery teams. Just in her first couple of weeks on the job, Winnie has already deployed to Nevada County, Calif., where she helped those impacted by the severe storms and flooding in that area.

Winnie received her Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Montana.

She lives with her four-legged friend Milo, a Mexican street dog who was so cute she had to bring him home.

Reach Winnie at Winniefred.Lohof@redcross.org.

JACKIE SLOVAK

Jackie, who also lives in Missoula, joins our team with years of fundraising and marketing experience and has dedicated her career to working for the public good. Jackie most recently served as the philanthropy director for Home ReSource, a nonprofit that works with the community to reduce waste by

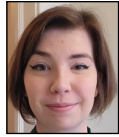
collecting reusable materials and channeling those items to those in need and providing work opportunities.

She also served as development director at Adventure Cycling and as the senior director of external relations at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls.

Jackie grew up in Eastern Montana and was thrilled to move back to the state after working in Georgia and a variety of cities on the West Coast.

She received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Montana and a Bachelor of Science in computer science at the University of Great Falls.

She enjoys biking, hiking and sharing experiences with her grown daughter, Emily. Reach Jackie at Jackie.slovak@redcross.org.



Lohof



Slovak



Idaho Gov. Brad Little donates lifesaving blood at the Capitol blood drive. Gov. Little is a longtime Red Cross blood donor.

Idaho Capitol blood drive, proclamation

Idaho Gov. Brad Little and Secretary of State Phil McGrane, both longtime blood donors, joined the Red Cross at an Idaho Capitol blood drive in March. Other elected officials, government employees and Idaho Red Cross board members also donated at the drive, which collected 42 units of lifesaving blood. Before the drive, Gov. Little and Secretary McGrane proclaimed March is Red Cross Month in Idaho.

— Photos by Red Cross volunteer Ken Stanton



TOP: Gov. Little declares March is Red Cross Month in Idaho. ABOVE: Secretary of State McGrane donates blood. LOWER LEFT: Red Cross CEO Nicole Sirak Irwin with board members Dr. Bart Hill, Amy Holly, Melissa Merrill and Vanessa Fry and Secretary of State Phil McGrane.



Blood: DeJong has returned to work

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children, ages 23, 20, and 16. His daughter, a junior, hopes to organize a blood drive for her senior project. She’s calling on her dad to share his story of how important blood donation is.

“I’m so thankful for the people who give blood,” he said. “I have a new

respect for blood donors.” William can’t do everything he once did yet, but he’s back to work. He savors things he once took for granted like walking, seeing his children hit milestones, being with his wife and the love and support of his community.

“I value friendships more. I value my family more,” he said.

“Life is definitely different, but I’m not going to let it get me down,” he said.

“It is what it is, and I can move forward. If I can plant that seed of inspiring blood donation from my story, that makes me happy.”

— By Red Cross writing team volunteer Kristen Inbody