

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

■ September is National Preparedness Month. Learn more [here](#).



Members of our team deployed since August 1.

- Paul Ayers
- Mary Carparelli
- Peter Carparelli
- Suzanne Carroll
- Linda Conners
- Autumn Gibson
- Shannon Graves
- William Graves
- Jack Hoopes
- Lorna Hoopes
- Nicole Sirak
- Sherry Israel
- Vicky Johns
- Jean Johnson
- Ted Koenig
- Megan McGuire
- Kathy Mellinger
- Don Nesbit
- Vickie Nostrant
- Hank Nowak
- Karen Sare
- Susan Smith
- Carol Tally
- Bruce Wenigmann
- Jacki Kaelin Williams
- Ernie Woody



MILESTONES

KENT JAY, 15 years

BARBARA LAWRENCE, 15 years

JAN HATT, 10 years

GARY MERCER, 10 years

ROY HOLLOWAY, 5 years

WILLIAM SCRIBNER, 5 years



Red Cross volunteers including Beverly Beem, Kathy Franck and Sandy Harnar meet with families displaced by an apartment fire in Twin Falls. "It was amazing to know what the Red Cross did," Jentrie Stearns said. "It gave us relief to know we had help."

Hope after the smoke

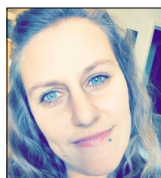
Two families tell how Red Cross responders delivered critical help, solace following fires

Jentrie Stearns was on her lunch break from work when she got a call from her fiancé with news no one wants to hear – their apartment building was on fire.

Stearns rushed home in time to see smoke rising from the Twin Falls apartments. A neighbor helped her three children escape the building, and in tears with their rescued pets in tow, they rushed over to hug their mom.

"It was insane," Stearns said. "I've never experienced anything like that."

Still struggling to grasp everything that was happening around them, Stearns and her family were able to breathe a small sigh of relief when some unexpected visitors arrived – a Red Cross volunteer team. These Red Cross responders began meeting with the families, handing out blankets and addressing their most immediate needs like food and lodging.



Stearns

"Honestly, I didn't know the Red Cross stepped in like that," she said. "It was amazing to know what Red Cross did. It gave us relief to know we had help."

Stearns and her family are living with relatives right now until their new apartment is ready. It's been a tough time, she said, but she knows there are better days ahead. And she thanks Red Cross for giving her family comfort and care when they needed it most.

"People need to know there's help out there, that there's help coming," she said. "You're not alone."

JUST FOUR months after watching smoke billow out of his apartment window in the wee hours of the morning as he gasped for air, Kyle Ramon is back on his feet. The Great Falls veteran recently moved into a new house and started his own business, huge steps forward that might not have been possible without the help he received from the Montana Red Cross.

"It was a miracle. The Red Cross is a god-send," Ramon said. "Without having that support and that room to digest and create a plan, I don't know where I would be."

At around 2 in the morning, Ramon had gotten up to take his contacts out when he heard his upstairs neighborhoods moving about

SEE HOPE, PAGE 2

Idaho volunteers applauded

Two outstanding Red Cross volunteers received awards at our annual Idaho meeting in August. For the second year in a row, Barbara Weber is the winner of the Dane Watkins Exceptional Volunteer Engagement Award. This award is given to the Idaho volunteer who logged the most hours in the past year. Watkins is a longtime Red Cross board member and supporter from Idaho Falls.

Barbara logged an amazing 1,818 hours last year, serving as a Disaster Workforce Manager volunteer partner,

IN THE KNOW

RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS



a regional training lead and a deployment and disaster action team coordinator, to name just a few of her many titles.

Check back next month when we recognize the Montana volunteer who logged the most hours.

DeAnn Stoolman is this year's win-



Weber



Stoolman

ner of the Roy Eiguren Leadership Award. This annual award is given to an Idaho Red Cross volunteer who exhibits innovation and exemplary

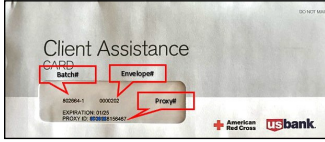
SEE AWARDS, PAGE 2

Help track client assistance cards

Thanks to all Disaster Cycle Services workers for making our June quarterly client assistance card inventory a success. With your help we've greatly improved our accuracy and efficiency.

It's time for the next quarterly inventory of client assistance and mission cards. We will compile a snapshot of all cards in the field as of August 31.

Between Sept. 1-10, use this link <https://bit.ly/3hbnZZF> to complete a short online form to record your name



and the current count of cards in your possession

All DCS workers with client assistance cards or mission cards must complete the form, regardless of position.

Important note: This quarter the

mandatory reporting window falls over Labor Day.

If you will not have access to your cards between Sept. 1-10, please contact Angela James at angela.james@redcross.org prior to Sept. 1 for assistance so your cards can be counted within the reporting window.

Cards that are not reported will be electronically destroyed shortly after the form closes on Sept. 10 so our records can remain accurate.

Wozniak award recognizes excellence

Montana Red Cross recently created an annual award honoring former board chairman and current board member Tom Wozniak. The Tom Wozniak Volunteer Award for Excellence recognizes innovation, leadership and exceptional service in support of the Red Cross mission and will be presented to an outstanding Montana volunteer each June at the annual meeting.

Wozniak, who lives in Missoula, is a financial advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC and has served on the Montana Red Cross board since 2014.

He became board chairman in 2015 and held that position for four years and continues to serve on the board.

Wozniak has played an important role with the Red Cross by securing funding, recruiting leaders to the board and using his influence to raise awareness of its work in Montana. He has been a blood donor for more than 20 years.



Wozniak

"Tom is the kind of leader who is willing to roll up his sleeves and donate lifesaving blood or install smoke alarms to help save lives," Montana Red Cross Executive Director Diane Wright said. "He takes time to personally thank other Red Cross volunteers and is a shining example of what it means to be 'sleeves up, hearts open, all in.'"

The recipient of Wozniak award also will be nominated for the Humanitarian Services Presidential Award, a national award presented by the American Red Cross each summer.

Awards: Milestone announcements

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

service in support of our mission. Eiguren is the co-chair of the Idaho Red Cross board of directors and also serves on the Red Cross National Philanthropic Board.

DeAnn is a founder of the Animal Visitation program in Idaho and Montana. As part of this program, Red Cross volunteers and their four-legged companions visit Gowen Field for deployment and family day events and work with patients at Boise VA hospice care. DeAnn recruited 35 members from our community partner Idaho Go Team Therapy Dogs and together with her co-volunteers – Golden Labs Charlie and Frannie – provides comfort and care to our military communities.

MILESTONE WINNERS: In September, Idaho and Montana board members will announce our 20-hour and 100-hour milestone winners on Facebook.

Every volunteer who logged at least

20 years in the past year was entered into a drawing to receive a prize. Check out our Facebook pages in the month ahead as we honor these winners.

SPREADING THE WORD: Nicole Sirak Irwin, our regional CEO, and medical director Dr. Walter Kelley recently talked to Idaho Matters about our urgent need for convalescent plasma for people seriously ill with COVID-19. Hear them talk about this important program here: <https://bit.ly/3j0Zfuk>.

SEASONAL READINESS: We continue to have an urgent need for volunteers to respond to disasters here in our region and across the division.

If you are willing, able and interested in deploying, please contact Recruitment Specialist Gini Kay at 406-493-8778 or email IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org.

PREPAREDNESS: As part of National Preparedness Month in Sep-

tember, our region is offering some virtual courses open to staff and volunteers. Additional courses will be available to the public in the months ahead, so watch our Facebook pages for details and share with friends and family.

PREPARE WITH PEDRO

Sept. 11, noon-1 (MST), staff and volunteers

Participants will learn about our preparedness education program for grades K-2.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93314661408>, **ID:** 933 1466 1408, **Passcode:** 770454, **Call in:** 1-253-215-8782

BE RED CROSS READY

Sept. 17, 7-8 p.m. (MST), staff and volunteers

This presentation teaches individuals how to be ready for an emergency or disaster by following three simple steps: 1) Get a Kit, 2) Make a Plan and 3) Be Informed.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96934304307>, **ID:** 969 3430 4307, **Call in:** 1-253-215 8782

Hope: 'Gives me faith in humanity'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hurriedly. The sound of a fire alarm and the smell of smoke soon followed.

He rushed to his young daughter's room and pulled her out of bed before waking his girlfriend. The hallway outside their apartment was filled with smoke and heat so Ramon broke out their window and helped his girlfriend to safety. He then handed her his daughter, before he escaped himself.

A few moments after he got out, Ramon realized his 74-year-old neighbor who is hard of hearing was nowhere to be seen. Ramon woke her, helped her find some clothing and then lifted her to safety, too.

The April fire at the Great Falls apartments left 21 families without a home, a situation made even more difficult by the coronavirus pandemic.



Kyle Ramon speaks with Red Cross Disaster Program Manager Shellie Creveling after a fire at the Glacier Apartments in Great Falls in April.

Red Cross responders put families up in individual rooms at a local hotel, provided food and emotional support and jump-started their road to recovery. Many of those families have since returned to those apartments while others like Ramon and his young daughter charted a new path.

"My five-year plan quickly became my 15-day plan," he joked.

Ramon had no idea Red Cross does so much but is forever grateful.

"Red Cross went above and beyond what I could ever expect," he said. "It makes me happy and gives me faith in humanity."