

# RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



### ON THE HORIZON

- **March, Red Cross Month.** Learn how you can participate [here](#).
- **March, Women's History Month**
- **March 8, International Women's Day**
- **March 13, Daylight Savings Time** begins. Remember to test your smoke alarms as you turn your clocks ahead an hour.
- **March 17, St. Patrick's Day**
- **March 22, World Water Day**
- **March 23, American Red Cross Day of Giving.** Learn how you can support our mission [here](#)



## 41

**Disaster responses** in February.  
**Clients helped:** 128



### MILESTONES

#### March

- WILLIAM RENDERS,** 15 years
- TREVOR BLINCOE,** 5 years
- BECKY CHANDLER,** 5 years
- KAY DeMANGELAERE,** 5 years
- IVY SKINNER,** 5 years
- CHRISTOPHER VOLMER,** 5 years

**ALERT:** As the fighting intensifies in eastern Ukraine and conflict roils the region, the Red Cross remains committed to assisting those in need. The American Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Ukrainian Red Cross and others are chipping in to help families impacted by the conflict. Learn more here: <https://intranet.redcross.org/content/redcross/>

## Blending her skills



When not volunteering as the regional community preparedness lead for the Red Cross of Idaho and Montana, Daneena Scholl regularly hits the outdoors with her two young sons.

## Unique approach leads to success

Through an energetic combination of enthusiasm, innovation and dedication, Belgrade's Daneena Scholl used some nontraditional methods to advance her education and land her ideal volunteer role as the regional community preparedness lead for the Red Cross of Idaho and Montana.

This 40-year-old Montana-raised wife and mother of two toddler boys, who is expecting a third child with her husband in May, made this possible by breaking away from the ordinary lines of higher education.

Daneena began this journey by entering the Kinesiology and Exercise Science program at Montana State University-Bozeman in 2015. But looking for a better educational fit, she relocated with her family to Forest Grove, Ore., where she completed a bachelor's degree in public health, with specialties in epidemiology and health care management.

Through a Pacific University partnership program that uses online distance learning, she earned her Master of Public Health from the Benedictine University, which is located in Illinois.



Again, not sticking with the norms, Daneena had to find an internship within her field of study while living and raising a family in Montana. That was essential because her husband works in mental health care in the Bozeman area.

Finding a Montana internship was difficult,

SEE TURNING POINT, PAGE 3

## Dad's ordeal forges dedicated volunteer



Lori Jenkins takes pride in her volunteer work, greeting blood donors and making them feel comfortable.

When her dad was seriously injured in a car crash in 2009, Lori Jenkins found herself in the middle of a crisis.

A police dispatcher, Lori was accustomed to helping others during emergencies, but this was different. This was intensely personal.

As she watched her dad receive multiple transfusions, Lori wanted desperately to help and asked if she could donate her own blood directly to her father. She was told that while that was not possible, she certainly could donate blood through the Red Cross.

In December of that year she began donating, later joking with her father that she was trying to catch up and repay the Red Cross for the blood that he had received. She went well beyond that mark and has recently qualified for the Red Cross five-gallon pin.

But she went even farther. For several years she has worked as a Red Cross volunteer in her hometown of Twin Falls, Idaho. At first, that meant assisting at a local church which regularly hosts blood drives.

At one drive, a Red Cross employee noticed her as she greeted donors, made sure they got a treat afterward, helped

SEE SUPER, PAGE 3

# Bid farewell to a fine leader

I have the bittersweet task of announcing that Ted Koenig, our regional disaster officer, is leaving our Red Cross region to attend two graduate programs — the University of Illinois’ Master of Science in Management and Wheaton College’s Master of Arts in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership. Ted’s last day with us is April 15.

I have had the pleasure to work with Ted for the last seven years. He has been an outstanding member of our team, joining our region as a disaster program specialist before being promoted to the manager position within the year. Nearly three years ago, Ted was promoted to the regional disaster program officer.



**Ted Koenig**

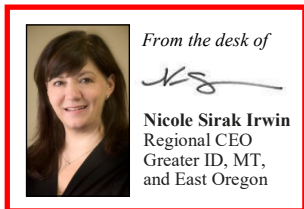
Ted’s strong work ethic and follow-through is world-class. His calm demeanor inspires confidence in our

team’s ability to cope within an ever-changing environment. As wildfires in Idaho and Montana become more prolonged and severe, Ted has tirelessly worked to build volunteer leadership capability and competencies that will have a lasting impact.

A recruiting plan and hiring committee are being formed. If you’re interested in applying for this **Idaho- or Montana-based position** or know someone who might be, please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3swSL5T>

**Job description**

*The American Red Cross of Greater Idaho and Montana has an opportunity*



*to join our Disaster Services team as regional disaster officer. We are seeking an energetic, caring leader to support volunteers and collaborate with community partners to build community resiliency and respond to disasters.*

*This position has a leadership role for any scale of disaster in the region and can be asked to serve on larger operations throughout the Pacific Division or nationwide.*

*Your day-to-day work will include engaging your workforce of staff and volunteers to help guide mission delivery and planning, meeting with community partners and working closely with internal stakeholders to fulfill our mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering in the face of emergencies. This is a fast-paced position that can frequently shift and innovate to meet the need.*

**Other opportunities**

We also have several other job opportunities across our region.

We are currently recruiting for a **disaster program manager in East Idaho**. Strong candidates will have a demonstrated competency in volunteer management, partner engagement and the desire to be a part of a collaborative

team who will help our Eastern Idaho communities prepare for and respond to disasters.

This position will be based in the Idaho Falls or Pocatello areas. Apply here: <https://rdcrss.org/3oDOa0M>.

We are also hiring **phlebotomists** at several locations across the region. Our phlebotomists put their compassion and customer service skills to work to collect the lifesaving blood that cancer patients, accident victims and so many others depend on.

We offer paid training, competitive pay and the opportunity to build your career. Below are the links for those openings:

**Bozeman, MT:** <https://rdcrss.org/3r7VkkKT>

**Lewiston, ID:** <https://bit.ly/3gDwUUV>

**Pocatello, ID:** <https://bit.ly/3BbFTuG>

And finally, we’re seeking a **general maintenance technician** to help maintain and repair our facilities and equipment in Missoula.

This technician will conduct routine inspections to determine if repair and maintenance work is necessary, coordinate projects with outside vendors, drive Red Cross vehicles to other locations and perform tasks like painting and basic plumbing work. To apply for this part-time position visit <https://bit.ly/34BkWBk>.

Please join me in once again thanking Ted for his dedicated service.

# Mental health workers needed

If you have strong mental health credentials, Red Cross needs you. Read on to find out more. Also, discover who won the Super Bowl giveaways, and learn more about the monthly volunteer meeting for fun.

**POSITION OF THE MONTH.**

Both of the following roles provide services to help better mental and emotional health. Pick a department or hold both positions!

Title: Mental Health Volunteers

Department: Service to the Armed Forces

Location: Virtual/In-person

Tasks: As a skilled professional you provide support to military members, veterans and their families by facilitating Service to the Armed Forces resiliency workshops. Additional engagement includes attending VA whole health program trainings and providing general support to mental health-related needs within SAF and clients we serve. Volunteers need to hold a master’s level degree and current license.

Time Commitment: After initial training, two workshops per year.

## IN THE KNOW



RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS

Department: Disaster Services

Location: Virtual

Tasks: Trained professionals are needed to help Red Cross clients and volunteers through the recovery process after disasters. You will participate in community disaster education activities and develop local partnerships with mental health agencies. Must hold master’s degree and unencumbered license or be recently retired from practice.

Time Commitment: Varies depending on client need and disaster response.

Questions? Email our team at [IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org](mailto:IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org) for more information.

**COMPUTER POSITION.** We are looking for a volunteer proficient in Word and Excel to help track and schedule disaster action team members. This person will work directly with Andrea Vlassis-Zahn, our direct services pro-

gram manager. Interested? Contact [IDMT.Vol@redcross.org](mailto:IDMT.Vol@redcross.org)

**SUPER GIFTS.** Eighty-six volunteers participated in February’s Super Bowl contest. Forty-three chose the LA Rams and 43 selected the Cincinnati Bengals. The Rams won the game. Red Cross hat winners were:

- Michelle Susanan — Disaster and Service to the Armed Forces Volunteer
- Andy Shirliff — Disaster Volunteer
- Karl Ames — Biomedical Transportation Volunteer

**KETCHUP WITH FRIENDS.**

Please join fellow volunteers at our special Lucky Charms social time, Tuesday, March 8, from 7:30-8 p.m. You can win a lovely prize, but you must come to win.

February winners were Starleen Abbasi, Kersten Eggers and Michal Delgado. They each won a diary/journal.

Click [here](#) to join the meeting.



# Feb. 28 cardholder inventory canceled

National Headquarters recently revised the quarterly schedule for inventorying client assistance and mission cards held by the DCS workforce.

This is to reposition the inventories that were previously done during end-of-month holidays such as Memorial Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving that resulted from using a schedule that was based on the traditional banking quar-



ters. This is good news as the new cycle will make the inventory schedule more convenient for the DCS workforce.

In response to this change, the inventory originally scheduled for Feb. 28

has been canceled. Our next inventory will be for mission cards and client assistance cards in hand on April 30.

We will move through the rest of the year with reporting on July 31 and Oct. 31. Watch for reminders in those months.

Please note the inventory procedure will not change, just the quarterly schedule for reporting dates.

Thank you for your flexibility.

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK

To nominate someone for outstanding service, use the nomination form at [https://volunteerconnection.redcross.org/?nd=yms\\_public\\_form&form\\_id=10764](https://volunteerconnection.redcross.org/?nd=yms_public_form&form_id=10764)

Notes charm staff

Students at St. Joseph School in Missoula sent these bright, wonderful thank-you notes to show their appreciation of our work. They made our day.



Drivers needed

The Idaho and Montana Region is calling all interested emergency response vehicle (ERV) drivers.

ERVs, like the one shown in this photo, are on the front lines of delivering the Red Cross mission through feeding and other mobile missions.

At any moment, any one of the region's four ERVs could be deployed locally or nationally to support our humanitarian needs.

If this interests you, please contact Regional ERV Lead Paul Ayers ([paul.ayers2@redcross.org](mailto:paul.ayers2@redcross.org)) and your local program staff. ERV driver candidates must complete required virtual and hands-on training and submit appropriate details for a motor vehicle records check.



Turning point: 'Great things'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

she admitted.

"This all happened during COVID 19, when there was a big hiring freeze, communities were preparing for the worst and so were education programs," she said.

Her break came after she reached out to the American Red Cross of Idaho and Montana, which was excited to work with another health and safety professional while they fine-tuned their online disaster preparedness programs.

"I can't think anyone thought of it happening the way it did," Daneena said of completing her internship.

She took ownership of a fairly new program aimed at the lesser-served regional populations. "Be Red Cross Ready" is a standardized national preparedness curriculum that helps people understand, prepare for and respond appropriately to disasters. Daneena helped develop the virtual preparedness presentations, which she then taught to community groups such as churches, civic clubs and workplaces — all via Zoom.

TO LEARN MORE

Visit [RedCross.org/volunteer](https://RedCross.org/volunteer) OR call 1-406-493-8778

"We tried a lot of different things working with at-risk communities in this Red Cross region to provide presentations for residents in low-population areas," she said. "Through these online presentations we teach some basics like, 'this is what you can do to prepare yourself in case something bad happens like a regional emergency or one in the home.'"

In January 2021, the internship ended, and she is grateful for the opportunity.

"There were a lot of great things we managed to do," she said. "No, we didn't meet the benchmarks (because of the challenges of COVID), but we developed a great online platform for signing up people for the 'Be Red Cross Ready' programs. In the future, when we start teaching again, we will have lists of people that contain contact information for people in those at-risk

regional communities.

Though some people were hesitant to embrace the virtual format, Daneena said it did offer advantages.

"When you are teaching online, you don't have to worry about geography," she said. "People who want to learn in eastern Montana can dial in and learn from somebody who is, for instance, in northwest Montana."

Daneena is now playing a lead role in the region's Sound the Alarm program, which works to make families safer from home fires by teaching them about fire safety and installing free smoke alarms in their homes. She is serving as the main point of contact between the national Red Cross Sound the Alarm leadership and the regional teams.

Regardless of her role, Daneena is enthusiastic about volunteering for the Red Cross and serving Montana and Idaho communities.

"I think on some level volunteers want to do good in the world and this is now the place to make that happen," she said.

—By Amy Joyner  
Red Cross writing team volunteer

Super: Helping across Idaho where needed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with paperwork and assisted staff as they sanitized tables.

That employee told Lori that volunteers were needed to do the same kind of work at mobile blood drives throughout the area. Lori raised her hand to help.

Eventually the Red Cross formalized that position, creating the Blood Donor Ambassador program.

Lori checks online to see when and where help is needed and she then signs up for opportunities that can accommo-

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

We need more blood donor ambassadors like Lori to help out at blood drives across Idaho and Montana. If you're interested, visit [redcross.org/volunteer](https://redcross.org/volunteer).



date her schedule.

Now retired and with ample time for sharing, Lori says she likes the sense of connection to community that the

Blood Donor Ambassador program provides.

She has worked with the program long enough that she often recognizes donors and calls them by name when they step inside. She enjoys the warmth of similar greetings from the staff when she arrives at her post.

Deeply committed to donating as well as volunteering, she encouraged her husband to become involved and he is now a Power Red blood donor.

—By Ellen McKinnon  
Red Cross writing team volunteer