



Donations That Matter This September

The American Red Cross has launched a national initiative to grow the number of blood donors who are Black to help patients with sickle cell disease and improve health outcomes.

- In the U.S., it is estimated that over 100,000 people – the majority of whom are of African descent – have sickle cell disease and may require blood transfusions throughout their lifetime to help manage their disease.
- Blood donations from individuals of the same race or similar ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients experiencing a sickle cell crisis.
- Sickle cell disease is an enduring – and often invisible – health disparity in the U.S. Despite the discovery of the disease more than a century ago, there has been fewer health resources available to help those currently suffering from sickle cell disease in comparison to similar diseases.
- That's why the Red Cross sickle cell initiative seeks to raise awareness about this health disparity and increase much-needed blood donations from individuals who are Black through community partnerships, which will help ensure closely matched blood products are available for patients with sickle cell disease.

Watch Lydia's story about the importance of maintaining a diverse blood supply.



Be the Shelter in the Storm

We're already in the middle of another extremely busy disaster season and it's critical to have a trained, ready volunteer workforce to make sure we can provide relief at a moment's notice. This year's wildfire season is already very active and dangerous because of the severe drought and dry woodlands across the west. Experts predict we could see 10 or more hurricanes with winds anywhere from 74 to 111 miles



per hour.

Compassionate and committed individuals are needed to support sheltering efforts this disaster season. Shelter volunteers support the day-to-day activities within a shelter, which may include working in reception, registration, feeding, dormitory, information, or other vital areas. We have both entry- and supervisory-level opportunities available. Free online training is provided.

If you can travel outside of your local area, a commitment to volunteer for of a least 14 consecutive days for 8- or 12-hour shifts is needed (we provide travel accommodations). The hours are long, the work is hard, but the experience will change you forever.



Help ensure that families don't have to face tough times alone by lifting up the hearts of those who are unexpectedly faced with emergencies.

To learn more or apply: [CLICK HERE](#)

Any questions? Email ray.duffy@redcross.org

Safety First! Our need for volunteers is constant and our guidelines reflect the latest [CDC](#) and local government COVID-19 safety recommendations.

The Time to Prepare is Now

September is Emergency Preparedness Month.

Governor Charlie Baker issued a proclamation thanking Red Cross volunteers for their tireless work keeping the residents of Massachusetts safe, while also responding to local disasters.

Preparedness is not just for September—find out ways to keep you and your family safe by visiting <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html>.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, The Commonwealth's experience with, and susceptibility to severe weather and natural hazards such as floods, blizzards, hurricanes, and tornadoes, compounded by the continued risk of pandemics, terrorist attacks, and other hazards, both natural and man-made, demonstrates the ongoing need for the state's residents to take simple steps to prepare for a broad range of emergencies; and

Whereas, The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, including the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Massachusetts State Police, Department of Fire Services, and the Massachusetts National Guard; the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, including the Department of Public Health and the Department of Mental Health; the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, including the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agricultural Resources, Office of Coastal Zone Management and the Department of Public Utilities; the Massachusetts Department of Transportation; and other partners, have the responsibility to protect public safety, health, and property, and minimize injuries and the loss of life by preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters and emergencies; and

Whereas, The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Public Health, the American Red Cross of Massachusetts and other public safety partners are promoting personal, family and community preparedness in the month of September to build resilience, help reduce casualties, and minimize the economic impacts of disasters in our communities and in our state; and

Whereas, Emergency preparedness is the responsibility of every resident of the Commonwealth, as families, individuals, organizations, and communities are encouraged to take simple steps to make preparedness a priority by creating or updating a disaster plan, building an emergency supply kit, and preparing homes and businesses for all types of emergencies; and

Whereas, All residents of the Commonwealth are encouraged to participate in preparedness activities and use the preparedness resources at www.mass.gov/ready

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September, 2021, to be,

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH


And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of September, in the year two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCE


CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KAREN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Day of Remembrance Blood Drive at Fenway Park



Thank you to everyone who made this year's 9/11 blood drive at Fenway Park a success. This blood drive collected 313 life-saving units of blood, along with two other blood drives held on 9/10 and 9/12 as part of the Day of Remembrance. More than 500 units were collected that weekend, helping to ensure the blood supply is maintained for our local hospitals and treatment centers.

September 11 is a somber day as we remember so many lives lost. This annual blood drive continues to be such a powerful way to both remember and to serve others with the lifesaving gift of blood. Thank you for being part of it!



Attending the Day of Remembrance Blood Drive at Fenway Park, left to right:

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, First Lady Lauren Baker, Boston Fire Commissioner John Dempsey, Boston Emergency Medical Services Chief James Hooley, American Red Cross CEO Holly Grant, Red Sox Executive Vice President of Legal and Government Affairs and Chief Compliance Officer David Friedman, Red Cross Regional Board Member Rene Canezin, and Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster

New Volunteer Orientation Series

The Volunteer Services Engagement team is offering a virtual orientation for new Red Cross volunteers this week on:

- Thurs., Sept. 23, 4pm to 5pm
- Fri., Sept. 24, 12pm to 1pm

If you are a new volunteer, we encourage you to join one of these sessions to learn about American Red Cross history, our lines of service, leadership, and the Massachusetts Region. We hope to “see” you there!



Volunteers are needed more than ever

Please consider training to become a disaster responder with the American Red Cross of Massachusetts. The need is great in local communities and across the country. All training, travel, and expenses are covered by the Red Cross.

Join us today, to be ready tomorrow! Click [here](#) to get started!

For additional details and how to sign-up, contact Sara.Ponticelli@redcross.org.

Keep Us Posted

Please send us your news and photos, and upcoming calendar events, to: News.RedCrossMA@redcross.org

Stay up-to-date on breaking news on our social channels and tag @RedCrossMA when you post about your Red Cross work!



American Red Cross - Massachusetts
redcross.org/ma

