

30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Red Cross*

# GALA

A PILLAR OF HOPE  
AND RESILIENCE

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2025  
STEWARDSHIP REPORT



**American  
Red Cross**

30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
*Red Cross* GALA

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



The American Red Cross Northern California Coastal Region is proud to announce its 30th Anniversary Red Cross Gala raised more than \$1.35 million to support the organization's mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in times of crisis.

This signature fundraising event, themed “A Pillar of Hope and Resilience,” was held on Saturday, March 22, at The Conservatory at One Sansome in downtown San Francisco. More than 350 guests gathered to celebrate this annual event to recognize this year's humanitarian honorees and contribute to the Red Cross mission.

The evening opened with a **moving retrospective video** honoring the organization's 140-year history and celebrating 30 years of the Red Cross Gala in San Francisco. Later, the program highlighted a **powerful story** of a Red Cross volunteer and a wildfire survivor — both impacted by the 2017 Tubbs Fire — on their Red Cross journeys following the disaster and inspiration to support the organization's lifesaving programs and services.



The annual volunteer-led, red-tie fundraiser was co-chaired by Elizabeth J. Folger and Kenzie Ferguson and featured a cocktail reception with caviar by Tsar Nicoulai Caviar, a magazine-styled photo shoot experience by The Vanity Portrait Studio, live entertainment by SFJAZZ and a chance to experience the Red Cross's award-winning virtual reality scanning simulation used to train lifeguards.

Set under the red glow of the Conservatory's glass ceiling, the dinner program included a three-course meal by Componere Fine Catering paired with wines from Raymond Vineyards and Jayson Wines by Pahlmeyer. Emceed by KPIX 5 sports newscaster, Vern Glenn, the evening also featured a chance to win a Bay Area sports package with experiences donated by the San Jose Sharks, San Jose Earthquakes, San Francisco Giants and San Francisco 49ers. Following the program, DJ Cole Odin & Friends turned up the volume as guests made their way to the dance floor to cap off another successful gala.



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## HONOREES



### 2025 RED CROSS HUMANITARIAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Betsy Witthohn (left) received the award by Selma Vandermade (right)**

The Red Cross presented longtime North Bay volunteer Betsy Witthohn with the 2025 Red Cross Humanitarian Volunteer of the Year Award. After witnessing the Tubbs Fire destroy parts of her hometown in 2017, Betsy was moved to help and became a Red Cross volunteer. She has since taken on leadership roles at both regional and national levels, spearheading major disaster response efforts across the country. She was presented with the award by Tubbs Fire survivor and Red Cross donor, Selma Vandermade.



### 2025 VISIONARY PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**(from left to right) Linda Dotson, Maja Kristin, The Malott Family Foundation and Wells Fargo**

The Red Cross recognized Linda Dotson, Maja Kristin, The Malott Family Foundation and Wells Fargo with the 2025 Visionary Partner of the Year Award for their transformational support of disaster resiliency efforts. Their generosity is helping the Red Cross advance community preparedness and accelerate recovery in response to the growing climate crisis.



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## EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

View [event photos](#) and [step and repeat photos](#) by Drew Altizer Photography

View [pictures](#) taken by The Vanity Portrait Studio

## MEDIA COVERAGE

Media coverage included online and print mentions in premier Bay Area publications, including:

[Daily Republic](#)

KRON4 [News Article](#) and [Honoree Spotlight](#)

[Haute Living](#)

[Liberte Press](#)

[The Press Democrat](#)



SF Modern Luxury Calendar Listing



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## 2025 GALA SPONSORS

### PEARL SPONSORS



& The extraordinary support of two anonymous benefactors

### SILVER SPONSORS



### BRONZE SPONSORS



Juan  
Benitez

Kenzie  
Ferguson

Carolyn  
W. Mervau

Lillian Phan  
Pickering

Rose &  
Keith White

LeeAnn & Eric  
Woodward

### VENDORS

Auctioneer: Devon Bell, Stellar Fundraising Auctions  
AV: JL Imagination  
Catering: Componere Fine Catering  
Cookies: Barbara Felix  
Donation Platform: GiveSmart  
Entertainment: DJ Cole Odin & Friends, SFJAZZ  
Florist: Jenna Lam Events

Ice Sculpture: Ice Illusions  
Oysters: Oysters XO  
Photo Booth: The Vanity Portrait Studio  
Photography: Drew Altizer Photography  
Rentals: Standard Event Rentals, Encore Events  
Valet: California Valet  
Venue: The Conservatory at One Sansome

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## 2025 GALA SPONSORS

### EVENT PARTNERS



### CULINARY & BEVERAGE PARTNERS



### FUND THE MISSION SUPPORTERS DONORS LISTED GENEROUSLY GIFTED \$1,000+

Alex Sarr  
Amy & Adam Dornbusch  
Amy Fox  
Anneliese Olson  
Barbara & Michael Calbert  
Becky & Ryan Graciano  
Betsy & Andy Witthohn  
Brent Thomson  
Brian Goldstein  
Briana & John Taylor  
Carolyn Putney  
Carolyn W. Mervau  
Cathy Lee  
Chris Porter  
Christopher Bourquin  
Dan Thorn  
Deborah & Steve Countouriotis  
Debra Flores  
Delta Dental  
Denise Lindquist  
Diane B. Wilsey  
Dominic Titcombe  
Ed Gogel

Elizabeth Archibald  
Elizabeth J. Folger & Robert Eldred  
Emelyne Interior  
Eric Knapp  
G3 Enterprises  
Google Cloud  
Grant Casner  
Greg Barton  
Hala Hijazi  
Hanna Malak  
Heather & Jeremy Rishel  
Ingrid Swenson  
Jarett Skeffington  
Jaymi Wessell  
Jeff Block  
Jill & Deane Malott  
Jim Forster  
John Graetz  
John Turcza  
John Wheeler  
Josh Becker  
Josh Weil  
Juan Benitez

Judy Taylor  
Julie & Thomas Atwood  
Kapil Dhingra  
Karla Flores  
Kelly & James Lee  
Kenzie Ferguson  
Kevin Ryan  
Kimberly & Todd Lawrence  
Kristi Woodward  
Lafayette 148  
Laith Frangoul  
Laura Leaverton  
Lillian Phan Pickering  
Linda & Greg Rice  
Linnea & Gary Murakami  
Matt Fegley  
Megan Erk  
Megan Janis  
Melissa McGuire  
Michelle Woods  
Miguel Galarza  
Mike Manowski  
Nancy Greenbach

Nicole Fernandez  
Nisha Baxi & Neel Mehta  
Paola Gonzalez  
Patience Yi & Sammy Maples  
Patricia Rick  
Patrick Hayes  
Paula Elmore  
Phil Spiegel  
Pooja Klebig  
Ramchandra Rajeshinde  
Rebecca Taylor Ford  
Rose & Keith White  
Rux Muys-Stoian  
San Francisco Giants  
Sarah & Thorton Schaaf  
Selma Vandermade  
Simon Martin  
Summer Cemo  
Terry Schwakopf  
Tim Myers  
Ylisa Sanford

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**SPECIAL THANKS**



**Gala Co-Chairs**

Elizabeth J. Folger and Kenzie Ferguson

**Committee Members**

Juan Benitez

Hala Hijazi

Kathryn W. Holmes

Jenna Lam

Ingrid Swenson

**Honorary Committee Members**

Lillian Phan Pickering, *Committee Chair*

Stephanie Block  
Hon. Willie L. Brown Jr.  
Paula Elmore  
Tyler Florence  
Ezra Garrett  
Nancy Greenbach  
Kelly Grimes  
Lindsey Haswell  
Pat Hayes

Sallie Huntting  
Linda Jenkinson  
Kelly Murphy  
Kate Smith  
Kirsten Strobel  
Briana Taylor  
Miriam Tcheng  
Diane B. Wilsey  
Rose White

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GALA VOLUNTEERS!**



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## YOUR SUPPORT

### About American Red Cross Northern California Coastal Region

Your generosity helps support vital Red Cross programs and services from Monterey to the San Joaquin Valley, to the Golden Gate and the Napa/Sonoma Wine Country, and ensures the Red Cross is there for communities, when and where help is needed most.

BLOOD • DISASTER • ARMED FORCES • TRAINING • INTERNATIONAL

### Since July 1, 2024, you have helped our region:



Respond to **805** disaster events, the majority of these home fires, and open **1,584** disaster cases to help those affected to recover.



Collect **132,216** units of lifesaving blood from **4,192** local blood drives.



Provide **2,237** critical community services to members of the military, veterans and their families.



Train **72,927** people in First Aid/CPR/AED and **14,747** people in aquatics and water safety.



Engage **4,370** participants through our Restoring Family Links, Youth Action Campaign and International Humanitarian Law program.



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