



2026 RED CROSS
GALA



**American
Red Cross**

Stewardship Report





2026 RED CROSS GALA



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The American Red Cross Northern California Coastal Region is proud to announce its 31st Annual Red Cross Gala raised \$1.4 million for the organization's mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

This signature fundraising event returned to the luxurious Conservatory at One Sansome in downtown San Francisco on Saturday, March 21, 2026, bringing together more than 300 guests to celebrate humanitarian leadership while raising support for critical Red Cross services.

The evening opened with a moving recognition of 18-year-old Malik Osman, a newly trained Red Cross lifeguard, whose quick action saved a young child from drowning. Later, Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor of California introduced Metallica and their foundation, All Within My Hands, who received the Visionary Partner of the Year Award for their transformative partnership with the American Red Cross, inspiring thousands of fans nationwide to roll up their sleeves and donate lifesaving blood.

Finally, the program highlighted the powerful story of Diane St. Denis, a distinguished Red Cross volunteer of 31 years, veteran of the United States Navy and a

registered nurse who has deployed to over 30 natural and manmade disaster responses locally and nationally.

The annual volunteer-led, red-tie fundraiser was co-chaired by Bay Area Chapter Board and Tiffany Circle Members, Michelle Woods and Kenzie Ferguson, and featured a cocktail reception with caviar by Tsar Nicoulai Caviar, roaming oysters by Oysters XO, and a paparazzi-styled photo shoot experience by Snap Fiesta.

Set under the red glow of the Conservatory's glass ceiling, the dinner program included a three-course meal by Componere Culinary & Events paired with wines from Atwood Ranch & Vineyards and Gallo Winery.

An exciting live auction featured a courtside Golden State Warriors suite for 12 donated by Google Cloud; a 7-night stay in an oceanfront villa in Maui donated by Connie Ellerbach with first-class airline tickets courtesy of United Airlines; and exclusive VIP tickets to Metallica's "No Repeat Weekend" sold-out show in Frankfurt, Germany.

Following the program, The Fast Times Band turned up the volume as guests made their way to the dance floor to cap off another successful gala.





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HONOREES



MALIK OSMAN **Lifesaving Award Recipient**

A senior at Junipero Serra High School, Malik Osman has long paired his athletic drive with a commitment to service. Since eighth grade, when he completed the grueling swim from Alcatraz, Malik has demonstrated a rare level of physical and mental endurance — a trait further sharpened by his training as a Red Cross lifeguard and his recent completion of the San Francisco Marathon.

Malik used these critical skills and demonstrated remarkable courage two years ago when he was at a pool party and recognized the signs of a child in distress. Noticing a child exhibiting the instinctive drowning response, he quickly entered the water, brought him safely to the pool deck, and began lifesaving care without hesitation. Amidst a crowd of anxious adults, Malik remained calm and focused, directing others to call 9-1-1 while administering abdominal thrusts and CPR that helped the child regain consciousness. His swift, skilled response reflects the very highest standards of preparedness and compassion, making him truly deserving of the American Red Cross Lifesaving Award.



METALLICA AND THEIR FOUNDATION, ALL WITHIN MY HANDS **Visionary Partner of the Year**

Metallica and their foundation, All Within My Hands (AWMH) have become transformative partners to the American Red Cross, inspiring thousands of fans nationwide to roll up their sleeves and donate lifesaving blood. Through large-scale initiatives like the Red Cross × Metallica blood drive series — which surpassed 1,000 donations in its first month — and the Give Where You Live campaign, they have mobilized both longtime and first-time donors across the country. Their commitment to strengthening communities is further reflected in AWMH's longstanding support of disaster relief efforts, funding responses to wildfires, hurricanes and other crises.



DIANE ST. DENIS **Humanitarian Volunteer of the Year**

Diane St. Denis, a distinguished American Red Cross volunteer of 31 years and veteran of the United States Navy who served during the Vietnam War, has long dedicated her life to the value of service and the well-being of her community. As a registered nurse, she has deployed to over 30 natural and manmade disaster responses, both locally and nationally. Her decades of compassion and medical expertise earned her the prestigious Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest international distinction a nurse can receive. Her leadership as a Disaster Response Operations Director has made her a cornerstone of the Northern California Coastal Region's disaster response efforts to provide hope and resilience.



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EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

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

View [red carpet](#) and [photobooth photos](#) taken by Snap Fiesta

MEDIA COVERAGE

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

[Drew Altizer Photography Instagram Post](#)

[Haute Living Article](#)

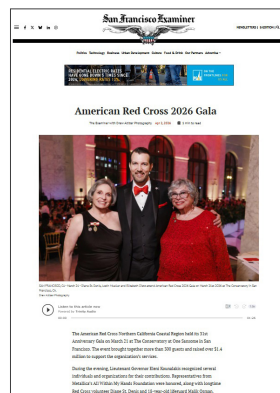
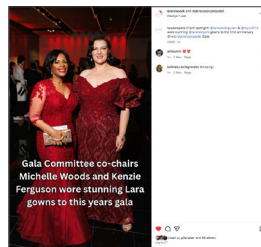
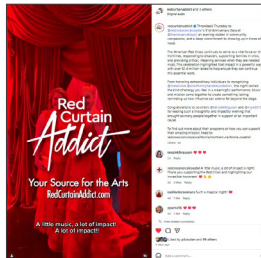
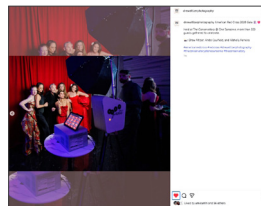
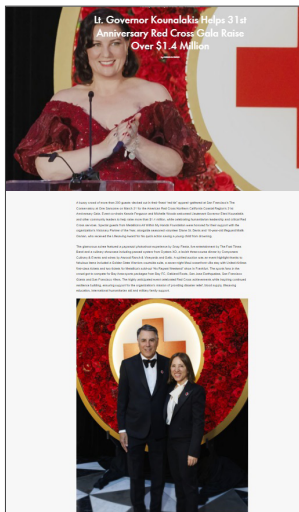
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[Liberte Press Article](#)

[Nob Hill Gazette Article](#)

[San Francisco Examiner Article](#)

[Red Curtain Addict Instagram Reel](#)



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2026 RED CROSS GALA



2026 GALA SPONSORS

Pearl Sponsor



Gold Sponsors

The extraordinary support of two anonymous donors

Carolyn W. Mervau

Silver Sponsors



The extraordinary support
of an anonymous donor



Bronze Sponsors



Lisa and Joe Allanson

Juan Benitez

Katie Colendich

Kenzie Ferguson

Ingrid Swenson

Diane B. Wilsey

Michelle Woods

LeeAnn and Eric Woodward

Vendors

Auctioneer: **Sanford Marshall**

AV/Production: **JL Imagination**

Band: **The Fast Times**

Catering: **Componere Culinary & Events**

Caviar: **Tsar Nicoulai Caviar**

Cookies: **Cynthia Lee**

Event Rentals: **Standard Event Rentals**

Florist: **Desiree Flower & Design Studio**

Oysters: **Oysters XO**

Photo Booth: **Snap Fiesta**

Photographer: **Drew Altizer Photography**

Registration: **Ace the Event**

Valet: **Propark**

Venue: **The Conservatory, One Sansome**

Wine Partner: **Gallo Wines, Julie Atwood**



2026 RED CROSS GALA



2026 GALA SUPPORTERS

Event Partners

JL IMAGINATION
LIGHTING AUDIO VIDEO LIVESTREAM

STANDARD
EVENT RENTALS



Culinary and Beverage Partners

COMPONERE
· fine catering ·

GALLO



FUND THE MISSION SUPPORTERS

Donors listed generously gifted \$1,000+

Aaliya Yaqub	Delta Dental	John Graetz	Paula Elmore
Adam Jaffe	Diane St. Denis	John Morehouse	Pooja Klebig
Alex Sarr	Diane Wilsey	Juan Benitez	Reagan Lund
Alexis Johnson	Dominique Olson	Judy Taylor	Rita Manowski
Alison Martin	Dylan Gururajan	Julie and Thomas Atwood (The HALTER Project)	Rux Muys-Stoian and James Barnette
Allison Lull	Ed Gogel	Justin Mueller	Sahil Bhardwaj
Amy Fox	Ed Goldman	Katie Colendich	Sarah Bagaman-Barna
Barbara Calbert	Elizabeth Melone	Kenzie Ferguson	Sarah Schaaf
Becky and Ryan Graciano	Eric Knapp	Kim Chavez	Sean McCluskey
Brian Goldstein	Erica Faitek	Kim Lawrence	Selma Vandermade
Brian Quinn	Ezra Garrett	Liz Archibald	San Francisco Giants
Brianne & Grant Casner	Florence Wong	Linnea D. and Gary J. Murakami	Shaun and Michael Hakiel
Carolyn W. Mervau	Greg Barton	Marai Bolourchi	Shon Sheirbon
Carolyn Putney	Hanna Malak	Matt Miller	Stephen Kupiec
Connie Ellerbach	Heather and Jeremy Rishel	Melissa McGuire	Suzan Halabi
Dale Gregory	James Lee	Michael Everhart	Wendy Muse Sinek
Dan Thorn	Jeff Block	Michele Averill	Vinita Anantava and Dr. Kapil Dhingra
David Robinson	Jenny Porter	Natalie and Edward Kao	
Deborah and Steve Countouriotis	Jesse Gary		
	Lisa and Joe Allanson		



2026 RED CROSS GALA



SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE 2027
RED CROSS GALA!

March 13, 2027
One Sansome, San Francisco



SPECIAL THANKS

Gala Co-Chairs

Kenzie Ferguson and Michelle Woods

Committee Members

Vinita Anantava
Liz Archibald
Juan Benitez

Tessa Burns
Grant Casner
Katie Colendich

Liz Dietz
Connie Ellerbach
Hala Hijazi

Kathryn Holmes
Vanessa Kirkpatrick
Eric Knapp

Ingrid Swenson
Lilian Tsai
Rose White

SPECIAL THANKS
TO OUR GALA
VOLUNTEERS





2026 RED CROSS GALA



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.

Powered by 8,175 dedicated volunteers and generous donors like you, over the last fiscal year we have:



Responded to **860** disaster events, the majority of these home fires, and opened **1,747** disaster cases to help those affected to recover.



Collected **147,383** units of lifesaving blood products for patients from our fixed donation sites and **4,143** blood drives.



Educated **4,788** individuals on International Humanitarian Law and saw over **120** youth advocates take part in the Red Cross Youth Action Campaign.



Trained **77,852** people in First Aid/CPR/AED.



Provided services to **8,369** active duty service members, veterans, and their families.



**American
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