



Here's to heroes with the energy to do more.

UGI is proud of its continuing support of the American Red Cross' Home Fire Campaign, a critical component of the Red Cross' commitment to saving lives and providing assistance during emergencies and disasters. We join the Red Cross in honoring the efforts of this year's local heroes, whose collective acts of kindness and courage make our community a better place.

2020 BERKS COUNTY HEROES

911 Dispatch Hero
Courtney Jakofcich

Law Enforcement Hero
Officer Daniel Homm

Adult Good Samaritan Heroes
Michele Whitmoyer
Alexandria Miller
Michael Carter

Animal Rescue Hero
Tim Profit

Military Hero
Tommy Dunston

Medical Hero
Bear Creek Ski Patrol

Youth Good Samaritan Heroes
Marcela and Coral Marcune-Brown

Fire Safety Heroes
Eastern Berks Fire Department

Community Impact Hero
John Morahan



BERKS COUNTY *Heroes* BREAKFAST

NOVEMBER 12, 2020 | 8 am



Don't forget to log on to our virtual event!

redcross.org/berksheroes



American Red Cross
Pennsylvania Rivers

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WEEKNIGHTS at 5:30 & 10:30PM

BERKS COUNTY *Heroes* BREAKFAST

Berks County heroes are made every day; let's celebrate them together!

Thank you for joining our 16th Annual American Red Cross Berks County Heroes Breakfast, where we recognize the extraordinary acts of ordinary local citizens and bring their incredible stories to you.

This inspiring event is usually held each May to celebrate the heroes who were nominated from the previous year. Although an in-person breakfast this year wasn't possible, we opted to hold a virtual event to honor our 2019 heroes and share their uplifting stories. Join our virtual event on November 12th from 8:00 - 8:45am, via the event link on our website: redcross.org/berksheroes

Surrounding the virtual event, the full videos highlighting each hero will be aired on WFMZ TV starting Monday, November 9th through the 19th, every weekday at 5:30pm. We may only have time to show clips from the hero videos during the virtual event, so please see the hero stories within this booklet and tune into Channel 69 News for the full story!

Heroism wears many faces. Each of these individuals or groups whom we honor here has stepped beyond the call of duty, past what is just expected, and above what is only hoped, to do something very, very special. This year's group of heroes exemplifies bravery in the face of danger, service with unwavering spirit, humanity with no thought of self, and kindness beyond measure.

Sometimes a heroic act is big, and sometimes it is small, but every time it has the power to lift an entire community, which is what American Red Cross Berks County is all about. Every day our committed staff and dedicated volunteers are doing everything they can to make our community a better place to live. You see us everywhere – transporting veterans to medical care, providing CPR and First Aid training, dependably delivering blood supplies, putting up smoke detectors where they are most needed, and being the warm blanket and first step to recovery for a family displaced by fire. Just like our heroes, our mission is clear: to make our community stronger by helping one another.

We hope you will join our virtual event – though we are apart, we are close in heart. We also encourage you to go to our website to nominate a hero for next year's event, and hopefully, we can celebrate our many heroes from 2020 in person.

Always remember: there is a hero inside every one of us. Let's now honor those who let their heroes shine through!

2020 Heroes Committee

2020 Berks County Heroes Committee

Judge Patrick T. Barrett, *County of Berks*
Wayne Becker, *Dave Zerbe Photography*
Bernadette Berrios, *Crowne Plaza Hotel*
Joan Breidenstine, *Community Volunteer*
Karin Mallett, *WFMZ*
John Miravich, *Fox Rothschild LLP*
Christopher Neidert, *Penn State Health St. Joseph*
Deborah Rutter, *Reading Hospital Tower Health*
Katie Simone, *Community Volunteer (Committee Chair)*
Turie Sotzin, *First Priority Bank, a Division of Mid Penn Bank*
Lidia Zidik, *Connors Investor Services, Inc.*

2020 Berks County Heroes Judges

Judge Patrick T. Barrett
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Owner, Wyomissing Restaurant & Bakery

Dr. Jill Hackman
Executive Director, Berks County Intermediate Unit

Dr. Edward Michalik
Administrator, Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities

Mike Reinert, “Berks Time Train” Host
Senior Account Executive, WFMZ-TV 69 News

Senator Judith Schwank
PA State Senate

**Don't forget to attend our virtual event
Thursday, November 12th at 8 am.**



Go to: redcross.org/berksheroes

Click on the event link just before 8:00 a.m.

BERKS COUNTY
Heroes
BREAKFAST

Hosted by:

Karin Mallett, WFMZ-TV 69 News

Peter Brown, Executive Director
American Red Cross Pennsylvania Rivers Chapter

Produced by:

A.J. Suero, Regional Communications & Marketing Manager
American Red Cross Greater Pennsylvania Region

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2020 Berks County Heroes

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Community Impact Hero

John Morahan

2020 Berks County Heroes

911 DISPATCH HERO | Courtney Jakofcich



Honored for her heroic actions to help save a life on September 1st, 2019. That morning, Courtney received a 911 call from a residence in Hamburg. There was no voice on the call and it quickly disconnected. Courtney immediately called the number back and Eileen Flickinger answered. Although Eileen had just awakened and was disoriented, she realized there was smoke in the house. Courtney could also hear a fire alarm in the background. She knew Eileen was in danger so she quickly gathered information and calmly gave her instructions on what to do next. Eileen was trapped in her bedroom and confined to a wheelchair, which she had used since 1982 after she fell off her horse and suffered traumatic injuries. Courtney coached Eileen to open a window and close her bedroom door since she couldn't escape, trying everything possible to give Eileen the best chance to survive. At the same time, Courtney passed important details to emergency responders so they could find her. Luckily, they got there in time to carry Eileen out of her smoke-filled home and extinguish the fire. Eileen went to the hospital for smoke inhalation, but was able to make a full recovery and return to her home. Today, Eileen is a juried artist, known for her amazing quilt work. After 3 years as a 911 dispatcher, Courtney is now a roadside assistance dispatcher for Penske, still doing what she likes most, answering the call when people need help.

MILITARY HERO | Tommy Dunston



Honored for his service to our country and his heroic actions in Vietnam. Tommy was a golf caddy who had worked his way up to assistant golf pro at the Doylestown County Club. By 1964, Tommy was about to move to the Bahamas to become the head pro at a new resort, when he was drafted into the Army. In 1966, after completing a tour in Germany, he was sent to Vietnam. After completing his first tour, he volunteered for a second tour. Apparently, Tommy doesn't do anything halfway—the night of August 7th, 1967 was no exception. Specialist Dunston was a gunner, serving in the howitzer section, when his unit was suddenly hit by simultaneous rocket, mortar, and ground attacks. With complete disregard for his own life, he continued to fire against the enemy. Even after they broke through the infantry perimeter, and most of his brother soldiers were hit, Tommy continued to fire at nearly point-blank range at the attackers. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "Valor" device for his actions during this attack, which were deemed a "determining factor in defeating the Viet Cong guerrillas". He was also awarded the Army Commendation Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service" in Vietnam throughout 1967. After leaving active duty in 1968, Tommy returned to Pennsylvania and settled in Berks County with his wife, Constance, where they live today.

2020 Berks County Heroes

ADULT GOOD SAMARITAN HEROES |

Michele Whitmoyer, Alexandra Miller and Michael Carter



Honored for their life-saving actions in saving the life of Sue Shaver. Last November, Sue was having lunch with her father at Longhorn Steakhouse, when she suddenly collapsed. She had stopped breathing and had no pulse. Three people immediately came to her rescue: Michael Carter, the restaurant manager, and 2 nearby restaurant patrons, Michele Whitmoyer

and Alexandra Miller. Michael lifted her from the booth, placed her on the floor, and they began CPR. As Michael gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, Alexandra and Michele performed chest compressions until Western Berks Ambulance paramedics arrived. Sue was able to make a full recovery after a week in ICU at Reading Hospital, where she had a pacemaker and defibrillator implanted. Recalling that day, Sue said, "When I was in need, three total strangers came to my aid." These strangers, who are now her friends, were a perfect life-saving team, in the right place at the right time. Michael first learned CPR as a boy scout. Alexandra is a technician at the Reading Hospital Emergency Department, where she regularly does CPR during her shifts. Michele was trained years ago by the American Red Cross; this is the second time she's used her CPR skills to save someone.

LAW ENFORCEMENT HERO | Officer Daniel Homm



Honored for his heroic life-saving actions to help numerous victims in the battle against opioid abuse and overdose. Officer Daniel Homm serves in the Exeter Township Police Department, which had the highest number of overdose cases in Berks County last year in which Narcan, an opioid overdose medication, was administered. Daniel leads the department with the most lives saved with the help of Narcan. One such case occurred October 1st, 2019, when he arrived at the home of a young mother who was in respiratory arrest, unconscious on the floor in front of her two young children. Officer Homm quickly administered Narcan and first aid, then comforted the children. The mother fully recovered. Days later, Daniel paid a second visit to her home to offer help, along with a representative from the Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse (COCA). This is one of many examples in which Daniel Homm has not only saved a life during an overdose crisis, but then returned to offer help after the emergency is over. Officer Homm is a shining example of the "Blue Cares" outreach program, in which law enforcement officers and COCA work collaboratively to identify and encourage individuals to seek treatment.

2020 Berks County Heroes

ANIMAL RESCUE HERO | Tim Profit



Honored for his generosity of spirit. On June 10th, 2019, Humane Pennsylvania's Berks County Response Team (Berks CART) received an urgent call that dozens of crates of live chickens had fallen off a transport truck alongside I-78 near Krumsville. Damon March (pictured left), the Chief Operating Officer for Humane Pennsylvania, immediately went to the site expecting the worst; surprisingly, many of the chickens were still alive! Without hesitation, and with the help of police officers at the scene, Damon packed over 100 chickens into his personal vehicle that day. It took him

multiple trips and caused much damage to his SUV, but he was committed to saving as many lives as he could. When Tim Profit (pictured right), of Savage 61, heard about Damon's heroic efforts to rescue 119 chickens using only his SUV, he called Berks CART to inquire about their vehicle needs. Tim then generously donated a 2019 Dodge Pro Master for future rescues. Humane Pennsylvania nominated Tim to receive the Animal Rescue Hero Award. Tim's donation is a most valuable resource in their daily lifesaving adventures, as they save countless animals and provide care through their shelter transport program and Healthy Pets Initiative clinics. Tim Profit says, "It was an opportunity that we felt we were able to give back...we really appreciate what [Humane Pennsylvania] does for the community."

MEDICAL HEROES | Bear Creek Ski Patrol

Pictured in photo, from left to right: Melissa Bubbenmoyer, Chris Bongo, Marci Krauth, Pete Silberman, Tom Newford, and Stefan Sevi.



Honored for saving the life of Earl Kufen on January 19th, 2019. Earl was on a snow tubing trip to Bear Creek Mountain Resort with his Eagle Scout Troop. While waiting in line on the mountain, he suddenly dropped to the ground. Several ski patrollers immediately responded to the call, including Peter Silberman, Melissa "Missa" Bubbenmoyer, Marci Krauth, and Tom Newford. Earl's body was lifeless and his skin was blue from lack of oxygen; they started CPR. Within minutes more help and equipment arrived, including Chris Bongo and Stefan Sevi. They worked as a team to give

Earl CPR, taking turns to ensure the chest compressions were as strong as possible. Earl's skin started to turn pink; then when the AED arrived, they gave him a shock that brought him back to life. Earl had no heartbeat for 13 minutes. A few minutes later the Topton EMS Ambulance arrived to rush him to the hospital as he was still fighting for his life. Luckily, Earl survived and made a full recovery. The Bear Creek Ski Patrol is comprised of 90% volunteers; some of whom are medical professionals, like Missa, who is an RN in the Cardiac ICU at Lehigh Valley Hospital. The Ski Patrol team was reunited with Earl and his family a few months later. "We're very, very grateful," said Marybeth Kufen, his mother.

2020 Berks County Heroes

FIRE SAFETY HEROES | Eastern Berks Fire Department



Honored for their heroic efforts to rescue Marie and Richard Minford from their burning home in Washington Township, on August 18, 2019. Volunteer Firefighters Sage Mutter, Jessie Cook, and Scott Kauffman were the first firefighters to arrive. They quickly realized the garage was engulfed in flames and smoke filled the home. When they heard someone inside screaming for help, they ran into the house without air packs or safety equipment to find the homeowners, Marie and Richard Minford. Marie was able to escape, but her husband was trapped in a wheelchair on the 2nd floor. Mutter

and Cook found where Richard was, but they were forced out by the thick smoke. Unable to breathe, the firefighters jumped out of a 2nd floor window to escape, then immediately grabbed equipment from a fire truck that had just arrived, so they could go back in. "As soon as I got out of the window, I ran to the truck to grab a pack so I could go back, because I knew where he was," said Sage Mutter. Firefighters, Warren Bechtel and Jake Benfield, entered the home from a ladder to the 2nd floor window to rescue Richard from the fire. He was still alive. Both Richard and Marie were rushed to the hospital, along with 8 firefighters who had suffered minor injuries, smoke inhalation, and heat exhaustion. Unfortunately, Richard, at 75 years old, passed away a few days later. Thankfully, Marie, and all the firefighters fully recovered. Despite the loss of her home and her husband, Marie remained grateful to the firefighters for risking their lives. She was able to thank them in person before she passed away from cancer earlier this year.

YOUTH GOOD SAMARITAN HEROES | Marcela and Coral Marcune-Brown



Honored for their bravery on April 29, 2019. That morning just before 5 a.m., 13-year-old Marcela woke up to her dog barking and alarms going off in her home. She recognized the alarms, as she had regularly checked and replaced the batteries in their smoke detectors. She also quickly realized that she and her 10-year-old sister, Coral, were home alone. They were responsible for getting themselves on the school bus that morning, as their grandmother had to leave early to pick up their father from the airport. Luckily, they knew exactly what to do in case of a fire. Marcela opened her bedroom

door to find the house was filling up with smoke. She quickly woke up Coral and they crawled out, staying low to avoid the thick black smoke. They were able to safely escape with their dog, Mojo. Minutes later, firefighters arrived from Union Fire Co. No. 1 of Hamburg, to find the house full of smoke and heavy fire coming through a front window. Additional crews of firefighters came to help from northern Berks and southern Schuylkill counties, taking about an hour to control the blaze. "I got my sister, grabbed my phone and called 911," said Marcela, who credits their swift life-saving actions to the fire safety education they received when volunteers from the Kempton Fire Company visited their school.

2020 Berks County Heroes

2020 Chapter Statistics

COMMUNITY IMPACT HERO | John Morahan



Honored for his selfless leadership and his efforts to improve and expand quality healthcare in the Berks County area. John was originally drawn to St. Joseph Medical Center because they utilized a faith-based approach to care which focused on both healing one's physical illness and on the spiritual dimension of healing. This closely aligned with his personal beliefs. Throughout his 20 years leading this organization through expansions and recently the transition to Penn State Health St. Joseph, John has demonstrated a tireless work ethic and a strong commitment to our community. As the President and CEO, John has ensured the organization continued to live its core values of Reverence, Integrity, Compassion, and Excellence at every step along the way. Along with the development of the 204-bed hospital in Bern Township, John remained committed to the residents in downtown Reading to ensure they would still have access to high-quality healthcare at the former Community General Hospital. John has also served on various boards in the community over the years. He is especially honored to have served on the Board of the Jesuit Center in Wernersville. Well-known for his passion, genuine kindness and strong leadership; John Morahan will surely be missed by the hospital community he has served, the employees he has nurtured, and the patients he has impacted.



In April 2020 Berks & Schuylkill Counties joined with Lehigh, Northampton, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union Counties to create the new PA Rivers Chapter under Executive Director, Peter Brown. Serving over 1.1 million people, our network of generous donors, volunteers, and employees share a mission of preventing and relieving suffering due to disasters, here at home, around the country, and around the world. For more than a century, the American Red Cross has been serving people in need. We do this every day because the Red Cross is needed. Every day.



RESPONDED TO
105

local disasters and provided assistance to **151** families



INSTALLED
1,527

free lifesaving smoke alarms in **968** homes



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12,005

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24,692

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433

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TRAINED
734

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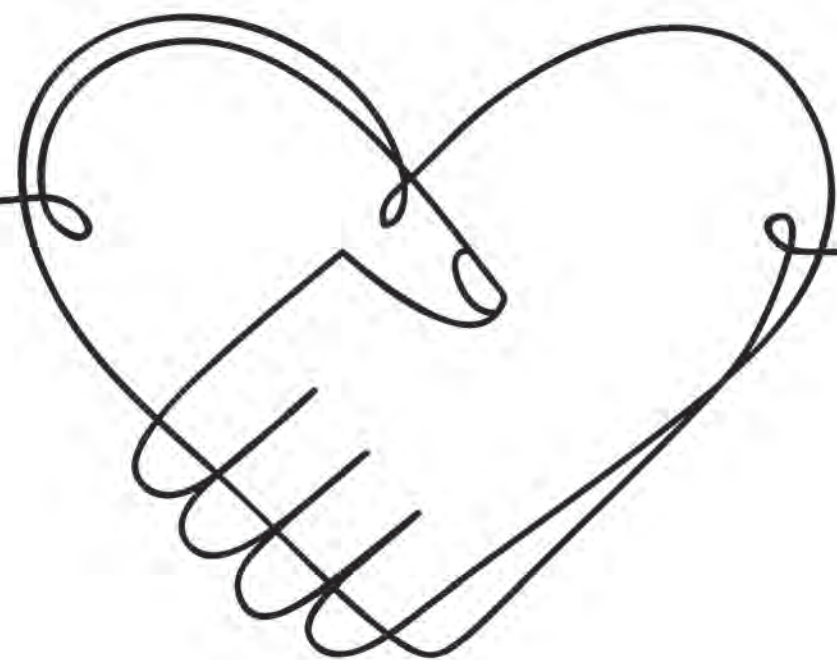
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American Red Cross
Pennsylvania Rivers

We can be heroes. Just for one day.

—David Bowie



There are heroes everywhere. On every street, in every town. Some you hear about. Some you don't. As we honor these heroes today, let's remember that every one of us, no matter where we live, no matter what we do in life, no matter how visible the impact of our efforts, can be a hero to someone. Even if it's just for one day.



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