



American Red Cross
Orange County

2022 ORANGE COUNTY HEROES AWARDS

Celebrate the Hero Within!

City National Grove of Anaheim
Friday, May 20, 2022

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The 2022 Orange County Heroes Awards videos
were produced by Hildreth Media Group, Inc.



American
Red Cross

WELCOME



On behalf of the American Red Cross, it is my pleasure to introduce you to the 2022 Class of Orange County Heroes. It's an honor to share their stories with you and be together this year to celebrate in person. These are truly extraordinary individuals and organizations who have made a lasting impact on the community and embody the spirit of the Red Cross mission.

From all of us at the Red Cross, please accept my sincere thank you for your support. Because of you, the Red Cross touches our community every day through the following programs:

Disaster Services • Training Services • Service to the Armed Forces International Services • Biomedical Services

In Orange County, the Red Cross empowers ordinary people to perform extraordinary acts in emergency situations. Whether it's a wildfire or a home fire, a call for blood, or a call from a service member or military family in need, the Red Cross continues to deliver its vital mission, and provide hope when it's needed most.

Because of your support in the last fiscal year, the Red Cross of Orange County:



Responded to **86 local disasters** and provided help for 164 families affected



Provided **2,466 services** to military members, veterans, and their families



Collected **63,827 red blood cell units**



Enrolled over **20,900 people** in Red Cross health and safety training courses

We also continue our local efforts in support of the nationwide Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, launched in 2014 to prevent home fire deaths and injuries. As part of this effort, our volunteers and partners provide free smoke alarm installations and provide home fire safety information through local *Sound the Alarm* events and appointment-based installations. Since the launch of the program, we have installed over **18,700 free smoke alarms** in Orange County, and made more than **6,600 homes safer**.

We were able to do all this and more because of the generous support of partners, volunteers and donors. Thank you once again for joining us and helping us advance the Red Cross mission in our community.

With appreciation,

Becky Firey

Executive Director
American Red Cross of Orange County
Southern California Region

STAND WITH OUR SERVICE MEMBERS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

**This year's Orange County Heroes Awards will benefit
Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces.**

American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces has provided care and comfort to members of the military for over 140 years. Today, this legacy continues as we support our nation's service men and women, veterans and their families by providing emergency services, supporting family resiliency and providing care and comfort in military and veteran healthcare facilities.

The Red Cross has served more than 1 million military families since 9/11. Service to the Armed Forces is an integral part of military family life from the time the service member takes their oath of service through the day they return home as a veteran. The continuum of care supports them every step of the way, working to:

- Provide community information and referral services.
- Provide families with information to cope with military deployments.
- Help families understand and cope with disasters.
- Provide 24/7 emergency communications.
- Support military hospital and clinic programs.
- Support veteran services and hospital programs.
- Provide reconnection workshops.
- Support military deployments with embedded staff on-the-ground, and more.

Southern California is home to one of the largest military populations in the country. Through your donation to Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces, you will assist our heroes at every step — from the time a service member takes the oath to navigating life as a veteran. Your support ensures dedicated, compassionate care for our nation's heroes and their families.



**Learn more about how the American Red Cross helps
service members, veterans and their families.**



**Please consider donating today. Complete the pledge card,
text the word OCHEROES22 to 76278 or donate online.**

ENLISTEE

Preparing for military life



- Holding workshops to help military families cope with deployment
- Briefing enlistees and new military families on Red Cross services
- Teaching cadets and the general public about International Humanitarian Law

Responding during difficult times



- Verifying crises — such as medical emergencies or loss of loved one — back home to support emergency leave
- Assisting during other crises, like homelessness and mental health emergencies
- Supporting U.S. troops in areas of armed conflict

Recovering with family and peer support



- Providing medical and rehabilitative care in military and veterans hospitals
- Comforting patients with visits, free books, toiletries and other care items
- Connecting caregivers with peers and resources through our Military and Veteran Caregiver Network

VETERAN



will match all donations made at today's event up to \$25,000.

When you donate to the American Red Cross, your donation is used efficiently. The Red Cross is proud that an average of **90 cents of every dollar** we spend is invested in delivering care and comfort to those in need. The American National Red Cross is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to the American National Red Cross are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Red Cross' tax identification number is 53-0196605.



Debra McCall was a homeless Army veteran. We secured her space in a shelter and helped as she rebuilt her life.

“Because of the Red Cross, my kids never missed a meal. We had shelter. We were safe ... and I was able to focus and set goals for the next step.”



1,500 times a day, we help military members, veterans and their families.

In FY 2021, we helped more than:



96,700

hospitalized people who needed rehabilitation services and care.



94,700

military heroes who faced personal emergencies.



15,600

family members who sought out behavioral health support.

*These are select examples from the wide range of services we provided to military members, veterans and their families.

We support military heroes on an incomparable scale, reaching them wherever they are in the world.

About **230 Red Cross chapters** provide support stateside.

Red Cross staff is embedded on more than **35 military installations** overseas.

We provide **lifesaving services** at veterans hospitals.



**American
Red Cross**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers carry out 90% of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross. Whether helping one displaced family or thousands, providing care and comfort to an ill or injured service member or veteran, or teaching others how to respond in emergencies, it's through the efforts of ordinary people that we can do extraordinary things.

Learn about our highest-priority positions and how you can make a difference!

Not all heroes wear capes. Be a hero. Volunteer today.



Every eight minutes, volunteers help the American Red Cross bring help and hope to people in need. Join us and make a difference in your community. **Apply now!**

ROLL UP A SLEEVE TO HELP PATIENTS IN NEED

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. The American Red Cross must collect enough blood every day to meet the needs of accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease. Each day, the Red Cross needs to collect about 12,500 blood donations and nearly 3,000 platelet donations to meet the needs of patients at about 2,500 hospitals and other facilities across the country.



The Red Cross collects, processes and distributes about 40% of the nation's blood supply. This wouldn't be possible without the kindness of volunteer donors who roll up a sleeve to help patients in need every day.

The Red Cross Blood Supply

This spring, it's critically important the Red Cross maintains a readily available blood supply for patients. With summer just around the corner, blood donations are critically important to maintain a stable blood supply. When schools let out and families set off on vacation, the Red Cross typically sees a decline in donors, often leading to a seasonal blood shortage. With no substitute for blood and no way to manufacture it, volunteer donors are essential for hospital patients in need of transfusions. The Red Cross blood supply remains vulnerable, and donated blood has a limited shelf life, so supplies must be continuously replenished to ensure sufficient inventory of blood products. Together, we can continue to ensure lifesaving blood is available wherever and whenever it is needed.

How You Can Help



Host a blood drive ▪ Donate blood, platelets or plasma
Recruit friends to donate ▪ Volunteer at a blood drive

EVENT PROGRAM

Registration and Networking

National Anthem

Katrina Pesek

Introduction & Welcome

Award Presentations

Animal Welfare Hero Award

Ally Carrier

Ally's Animal Assistance Network

Corporate Hero Award

Pacific Life Foundation

Disaster Services Hero Award

Operation Independence

First Responder Hero Award

Sergeant Joe Garcia

Seal Beach Police Department

Gift of Life Hero Award

Heidi Miller

Good Samaritan Hero Award

Mackenzie Penrose,

Mariel Casilan and Lilly Aguilar

Service to the Armed Forces

Hero Award

Step Up

Youth Hero Award

Hannah Karanick

Hannah's Helpful Hands

Closing Remarks

Thank you to our 2022 Orange County Heroes Selection Committee

Terry Bailey, Lance Britt, Dianella Donner, Anne Dwyer, Becky Firey,
Sara Garske, Michael Gelormino, Jennifer Hawkins, Jana Priest,
Robin Sweeney, Denise Tafoya-McNevin, and Steve Thronson



Doug Kolk
Master of Ceremonies

You can mostly find Doug Kolk on the red carpet covering everything entertainment for KTLA. He joined the station in March 2012 as general assignment news reporter. It wasn't long after he found himself alongside Hollywood's A-List.

After college, Doug worked for his father's produce company in the

Bronx, N.Y., before joining WICZ-TV in Binghamton, N.Y. He then worked as a traffic anchor for WBBH-TV in Fort Myers, Fla., and then spent five years reporting for KFMB-TV in San Diego.

Doug is a graduate of Hofstra University and a self-proclaimed "concert-going fool." In his free time, he enjoys "taking advantage of all the amazing live music venues this city offers." He also enjoys spending time with his family, including his wife Natalie and daughter Preslee.



THANK YOU...
to all the Red Cross
Heroes making an impact
in the community!

**SAVE A LIFE. DONATE
BLOOD AT ANTIS!**

Schedule your appointment at
www.redcrossblood.org/give
Enter code "Antis"


a little help
FOUNDATION
est. 2014

A proud supporter of
the American Red Cross!



Animal Welfare Hero
ALLY CARRIER

Ally's Animal Assistance Network

Ally Carrier is the Founder of Ally's Animal Assistance Network. Ally works tirelessly rescuing animals from throughout Southern California and Tijuana, Mexico. Often, these animals are very sick or abused. Ally ensures they receive the care they need and networks to find homes and fosters for rescued animals. Ally has saved thousands of animals' lives and is dedicated to keeping animals off the streets and out of shelters.

The American Red Cross is proud to honor **Ally Carrier** with the Animal Welfare Hero Award.

Presented by





Corporate Hero
PACIFIC LIFE FOUNDATION

Pacific Life Foundation has been a generous partner of the American Red Cross, providing mission support through financial grants, employee giving campaigns, blood drives, and volunteerism. Pacific Life Foundation has stood proudly by the Red Cross and shared their deep commitment to the mission for over 30 years. The Pacific Life Foundation has a long history of providing support in times of disaster, having donated \$2.7 million to Red Cross disaster response efforts since 2000. In the last year, Pacific Life has donated over \$330,000 to the Red Cross. In January 2022, the Pacific Life Foundation became an official member of the American Red Cross Disaster Responder Program by giving a gift of \$250,000.

The American Red Cross thanks the **Pacific Life Foundation** for their ongoing support and is proud to honor the Pacific Life Foundation with the Corporate Hero Award.

Presented by



The contributions of corporate citizens enable the Red Cross to make a tremendous difference every day for those who rely on our services in disasters and other emergencies. Learn more about corporate giving and annual partnership opportunities.





Disaster Services Hero

OPERATION INDEPENDENCE

Operation Independence was a collaboration of the County of Orange, Orange County Fire Authority, local agencies and city departments, public/private partners and volunteers to deliver vaccines to all 3.2 million Orange County residents by July 4, 2021. This collaborative program helped over 70 percent of Orange County residents ages 18 and older to receive at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The County continues to focus on delivering vaccines to the most vulnerable populations and hard-to-reach communities in Orange County.

The American Red Cross is proud to honor **Operation Independence** with the Disaster Services Hero Award.

Presented by





First Responder Hero
SERGEANT JOE GARCIA

Seal Beach Police Department

In May 2021, a six-year-old boy was shot in a road rage incident on the 55 Freeway. Sergeant Garcia with the Seal Beach Police Department was off duty when he noticed a silver sedan on the shoulder of the roadway and a woman holding her son. He immediately stopped his car, rendered medical aid, and stayed with the mother and son until paramedics arrived and rushed the child to a local hospital, where he later died. Since the incident, Sergeant Garcia—who has a six-year-old son himself—has remained in close contact with the mother and has provided support and compassion in the midst of unimaginable tragedy.

The American Red Cross is proud to honor **Sergeant Joe Garcia** with the First Responder Hero Award.

Presented by

Denise Tafoya-McNevin



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Gift of Life Hero
HEIDI MILLER

For decades, Heidi Miller has been giving others the gift of life. Heidi began donating blood in college, and in 1991 became a bone marrow transplant donor. In 2017, she donated a kidney to a recipient who had mere months to live. Like her earlier bone marrow donation, Heidi's kidney donation made a lifesaving impact. Since then, Heidi has mentored over 120 people in need of kidney transplants and has helped match more than 40 individuals, including over 30 people who have now received their transplants. Heidi also continues donating platelets and blood. Knowing that the need is constant, she encourages others to donate as well.

Heidi's motto is **"Share Your Spare!"** whether this means blood, platelets, bone marrow or kidney donation.

The American Red Cross is proud to honor **Heidi Miller** with the Gift of Life Hero Award.

Presented by



You can help save lives — become a blood donor or host a blood drive!



Good Samaritan Heroes

MACKENZIE PENROSE, MARIEL CASILAN AND LILLY AGUILAR

In November 2021, Mackenzie Penrose was teaching a PE class to first graders when one of her students fell to the ground, unresponsive. Mackenzie quickly realized he had no pulse and was not breathing. She jumped into action and with the support of fellow school staff members Mariel Casilan and Lilly Aguilar, administered CPR and remained with the student until first responders arrived on scene. Doctors and first responders reported to the student's family and school staff that the child would not have survived if not for the immediate actions of Mackenzie, Mariel and Lilly.

The American Red Cross is proud to honor **Mackenzie Penrose, Mariel Casilan and Lilly Aguilar** with the Good Samaritan Hero Award.

Presented by

Steve Thronson



Train for the moments that matter. Learn lifesaving skills to give you the confidence to act in an emergency.



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Service to the Armed Forces Hero
STEP UP

Step Up's mission is to deliver compassionate support to people experiencing serious mental health issues, and persons who are experiencing chronic homelessness, to help them recover, stabilize, and integrate into the community. In Orange County, Step Up is exemplifying this mission as the main service provider at Heroes Landing, a permanent supportive housing location in Santa Ana. Not only do veterans receive quality housing at Heroes Landing, Step Up ensures that veterans also receive comprehensive wrap-around services, including legal assistance, employment and VA support, social work and counseling, and more.

The American Red Cross is proud to honor **Step Up** with the Service to the Armed Forces Hero Award.

Presented by

City of Santa Ana



Did you know the Red Cross offers free services and programs for members of the military, veterans and their families? Learn more about how we serve those who serve — and how you can help.



Youth Hero

HANNAH KARANICK

Hannah's Helpful Hands

When Hannah Karanick witnessed a young student being teased because he lacked access to hygiene items and basic necessities, she knew she wanted to help him and other students experiencing a similar situation. Hannah's Helpful Hands was founded to provide basic necessities for students in need. Hannah developed a closet at her alma mater elementary school where school staff could discretely provide students with what they need, including hygiene supplies, clothing and more. Since its founding four years ago, Hannah's Helpful Hands has expanded to multiple schools. Hannah continues to conduct fundraising activities to ensure closets stay supplied and that students have access to the items they need to feel confident at home and at school.

The American Red Cross is proud to honor **Hannah Karanick** with the Youth Hero Award.

Presented by



The Red Cross is in need of both youth and adult volunteers. Volunteer opportunities are available now in your area. Learn more and apply today.



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

American Red Cross Southern California Region | Leadership Team

Sean Mahoney Regional Chief Executive Officer	Toni Chitty Regional Volunteer Services Officer
Malinda McDonald Chief Operating Officer	Becky Firey Executive Director (Orange County)
Glenn Maddalon Regional Chief Development Officer	Lois Beckman Executive Director (Riverside County)
Debbie Leahy Regional Disaster Program Officer	Yvette Baysinger Executive Director (San Bernardino County)
Patricia Perez Regional Service to the Armed Forces Interim Director	Ann Anderson Director, Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program
Christine Welch Regional Communications Director	

Board of Directors | Orange County

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Deepa Gupta Globalview Advisors	Steve Thronson Orange County Healthcare Agency
Susan DeGrassi Antis Roofing & Waterproofing	John Waldeck Pacific Life Insurance Company
Carrie Lin Youth Advisory Council Chair	

THANK YOU!

Valued Community Partners

Eichenberg-Larson
Charitable Foundation



**American
Red Cross**

Mission

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

Diversity Vision Statement

The American Red Cross aspires to be an organization fully committed to diversity and inclusion by creating and maintaining a diverse, high-performing workforce of employees and volunteers who reflect all communities we serve; by cultivating a collaborative, inclusive and respectful work environment that empowers all contributors; and by leveraging diverse partnerships—all of which helps to ensure culturally competent service delivery supported by effective community leadership and engagement.