



**American
Red Cross**

Central Valley Heroes Awards

Celebrating the Everyday Extraordinary

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

The Grand 1401 Ballroom

1401 Fulton Street | Fresno, CA 93721



Nomination Form

2026 Red Cross Central Valley Heroes Awards

Honoring Everyday, Extraordinary Heroes

As the community leader in emergency preparedness, prevention and response, the American Red Cross honors individuals whose extraordinary acts of courage and service make them heroes in our community.

The Red Cross Central Valley Heroes Awards is a celebration honoring local heroes for courage, compassion and leadership.

This year, we will be honoring heroes in the following categories:

- Good Samaritan Hero
- Youth Hero
- Lifesaving Rescue Hero
- First Responder Hero
- Military Hero
- Community Impact Hero
- Global Citizenship Hero
- Healthcare Hero
- Education Hero
- Clara Barton Humanitarian Hero

Nominate Your Hero

Please submit your nomination by filling out the nomination form at the end of this packet, or going to redcross.org/cvheroes.

Nomination Guidelines and Award Requirements

All nominees must work or reside in the five-county Central Valley area (Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa or Tulare Counties). The heroic act may have occurred elsewhere.

The heroic act must be either an ongoing commitment to the community for more than one year or must have occurred in 2025.

It is possible to have more than one person awarded in a category for the same act.

The 2026 Class of Heroes will be selected by the Heroes Selection Committee comprised of local community leaders. Selection will be based on hero merit, availability for filming, and award acceptance and adherence to our fundamental principles.

Nominees may meet the criteria for more than one category or be moved to a different category at the discretion of the Selection Committee during deliberation.

Heroes will be selected by the committee based on the degree to which their actions uphold the values of the American Red Cross and have left a lasting and positive impact on their local community. Award decisions are based on the information provided by the nominator, so please be detailed and include as much supporting material as possible.



American Red Cross
Central Valley

Heroes Categories

As the community leader in emergency preparedness, prevention and response, the American Red Cross honors individuals whose extraordinary acts of courage and kindness make them local heroes.

Heroes are selected based on the degree to which their acts of heroism uphold the values of the Red Cross and leave a lasting and positive impact on the residents of the Central Valley.

Good Samaritan Hero

The nominee has performed an act of heroism involving an unusual, significant, or unexpected incident requiring a courageous or unselfish reaction in a time of need that ultimately was resolved in the saving of another person's life.

Youth Hero

Presented to a youth in the community who has demonstrated courage, initiative and/or compassion in the spirit of the American Red Cross in service to another individual or the welfare of the region.

Lifesaving Rescue Hero

Presented to a person that has demonstrated outstanding heroism, skill, commitment or resourcefulness in an attempt to save one or more lives by utilizing skills aligned with those taught in American Red Cross programs such as CPR/AED/First Aid or other health and preparedness training.

First Responder Hero

Presented to a professional or volunteer serving as a law enforcement official, firefighter, or search and rescue. This award is presented to a person or persons who has exhibited heroism in their response to an emergency, on or off-duty, through acts of courage or selflessness.

Military Hero

Presented to a member of the armed forces (active or veteran, commissioned or non-commissioned) whose heroic action(s) demonstrated exceptional courage or improved the welfare of the military or civilian community. This award may be presented posthumously and may also be awarded to ROTC members.

Community Impact Hero

The nominee has displayed leadership and commitment to others by making a positive, noticeable and significant impact in their community. The nominee has identified a community need and created a program or service or ensured access to essential services, or otherwise took action to address community needs. Examples could include food service, postal service, public transportation, janitorial service, etc.

Global Citizenship Hero

The nominee has volunteered or worked to address the needs of the world's vulnerable and unjustly treated populations by building safer, more resilient communities and providing needed relief. The eligible nominee must live or work in one of the 5 counties within the Central Valley Chapter, but may have conducted their service locally, nationally and/or internationally to assist individuals in need.

Healthcare Hero

The nominee is a licensed and practicing medical professional, medical student or retired medical professional. The nominee could have been on- or off-duty at the time of the incident. The nominee either exhibited heroism in their response to an emergency situation, ongoing medical need, or ongoing commitment to the community through an act/s of kindness, courage, or unselfishness in response to an identified need.

Education Hero

The nominee has displayed leadership and commitment to their community by making a positive and significant impact, and through their efforts has exhibited heroic efforts to increase access to education. This nominee(s) could be, but not limited to, a practicing teacher, school administrator, day care provider or student organization.

Clara Barton Humanitarian Hero

Presented to a community member whose service and dedication to their community exemplifies the spirit of Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross. In memoriam, this award is granted every year to honor the late Clara Barton's legacy of humanitarian service.



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Central Valley Heroes Nomination Form

Nominate Your Hero Today!

Nomination Deadline:

November 7, 2025

Hero Nominee Information:

Name _____

Occupation/Title _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

County of Residence _____

Hero Nominator Information (You!):

Name _____

Occupation/Title _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Relationship to Nominee _____

Does your nominee know
they are being nominated? _____

yes

no

Award Categories (select one):

Good Samaritan Hero _____

Youth Hero _____

Lifesaving Rescue Hero _____

First Responder Hero _____

Military Hero _____

Community Impact Hero _____

Global Citizenship Hero _____

Healthcare Hero _____

Education Hero _____

Clara Barton Humanitarian Hero _____

To Nominate Your Hero:

Your nomination should include:

1. Nominations should include all requested contact information.
2. Description explaining why your hero deserves to be recognized (500 words or less). If able, include names and contact information for witnesses whom we can contact for additional information and/or verification as needed.
3. Please include supporting documents such as related news articles and photographs, if available.

Submit your nomination form by mail, email or online:

American Red Cross
Attn: Heroes Nomination
1300 West Shaw, Suite 4B
Fresno, CA 93711

redcross.org/cvheroes

cencalevents@redcross.org



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Central Valley Heroes Nomination Statement

Please describe in 500 words or less what makes your nominee a hero.
You can attach news clips or photographs to your nomination package.



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