Red Cross reunites the family after fire destroys a home

When a fire destroyed Channing’s home, the Red Cross brought comfort and a connection with her deployed husband. When Channing Chandler and her sister woke up to the smell of smoke in her Mililani home, they immediately knew something was wrong.

“The next thing I knew, our house was on fire,” says Channing.

The house completely burned down. Although safe, Channing, who was six months pregnant and whose husband was recently deployed, was in a state of shock.

“When the Red Cross reached out and said ‘how can we help?’ that was the biggest thing to me,” says Channing.

Comfort from abroad

In addition to ensuring that Channing’s needs were met following the fire, the Red Cross reached out to her husband Brian’s military unit to give him the news and assist in bringing him home.

“It’s terrifying to hear your house burned down and your wife was in it,” says Brian. “Not being able to do anything really affects you and I’m thankful [the Red Cross] took care and helped my wife as much as they could until I got home.”

“I can’t stress how important it is to give back to Red Cross for what they do,” Brian says. “To give back to your community and to people that need your help. It’s a great cause and it’s a great thing to do.”

“When the Red Cross reached out and said ‘how can we help?’ that was the biggest thing to me.”

—Channing Chandler
Smoke Alarms for longtime Hawaii Red Cross supporter

Local volunteers and firefighters protect lifelong Red Cross volunteer with bedside smoke alarm.

Red Cross volunteers, along with the Honolulu Fire Department and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 1186 installed smoke alarms in the home of longtime Hawaii Red Cross volunteer and supporter, LeBurta Atherton.

At 100 years old, the same age as the Hawaii Red Cross, LeBurta served as a Gray Lady during World War II, when she helped provide support to the military and comfort to injured soldiers. To this day, LeBurta is an involved supporter of the Red Cross.

A specialized bedside smoke alarm was installed in LeBurta’s home, which buzzes and shakes the bed if the resident is unable to hear the beeping.

To learn more about the Home Fire Campaign in Hawaii, go to: www.redcross.org/local/hawaii/home-fire-campaign

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Family rebuilds after Tropical Storm Darby floods home

A family turns to Red Cross for comfort and aid when Tropical Storm Darby floods their home.

When Tropical Storm Darby hit Hawaii in July 2016, the Red Cross was instantly on the scene to help and provide relief to the families affected. Torrey Ho’s home was entirely flooded by the storm, leaving him and his wife devastated by the damages.

“We came downstairs, looked at each other and had a good cry, then went off to work,” says Torrey. The home was submerged in 2 feet of water, and after 18 hours of bailing, they realized they needed help and called the Red Cross. Within a few hours, Red Cross caseworkers were on-site assessing the damages and providing food, water, sanitation kits and cleaning supplies.

“When the Red Cross showed up, both my wife and I were at emotional lows,” recalls Torrey. “We were exhausted from all the bailing, and everything we had on the bottom floor had to be thrown out, so we were just at rock bottom.”

“The American Red Cross was very instrumental in getting us back on our feet.”
—Torrey Ho

The Red Cross was able to provide Torrey a referral to Team Rubicon to help clear out the rest of the debris and also helped get items like a vacuum cleaner and microwave replaced. Caseworkers also followed up with Torrey to ensure that his immediate needs were met.

“It was very reassuring and heartwarming and uplifting to know that there was somebody looking after us,” says Torrey. “The American Red Cross was very instrumental in getting us back on our feet.”

Preparedness in the palm of your hand

The Red Cross Emergency App is an all-inclusive app that lets you monitor more than 35 different severe weather and emergency alerts to help keep you and your loved ones safe. Download the app from the Apple App Store or on Google Play, or text “GETEMERGENCY” to 90999.
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Comfort from abroad

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“It was very comforting knowing they were there,” says Channing. “Them just being there was amazing, and I’m very thankful.”

“When the Red Cross reached out and said ‘how can we help?’ that was the biggest thing to me.”
—Channing Chandler

On a Personal Note: A letter from Coralie

Rebuilding after Tropical Storm Darby

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