



## 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



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

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—Channing Chandler

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."



## On a Personal Note

Coralie Chun Matayoshi  
CEO

September is National Preparedness Month—a time to remind ourselves that home fires and other emergencies can strike anytime, and that being prepared is a family's and individual's best defense. Thanks to your kokua, the Hawaii Red Cross is ready to respond 24/7, 365 days a year, to provide comfort, hope and care to people in crisis.

Your gifts also help provide lifesaving programs like the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, preparedness education, CPR classes and much more.

The inspiring stories in this issue of *Crossnotes* are made possible because of our generous supporters. Thank you for enabling us to carry out our mission of helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies every single day.

Sincerely,

Coralie Chun Matayoshi  
CEO  
American Red Cross  
Pacific Islands Region

## 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.



LeBurta learns about her new special bedside smoke alarm.

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](http://www.redcross.org/local/hawaii/home-fire-campaign)

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## Here is how your support makes a difference



Supported more than **800** shelters with over **210,000** overnight stays



Served more than **3,600,000** meals and snacks



Opened over **36,400** cases to provide one-on-one support

# 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 caseworkers constantly called to check up on me and my family," says Torrey.

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.



**Celebrating 100 years  
of Red Cross Services  
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Centennial Military  
Canteen Event**

Donut Dolly theme with WWII Red Cross uniforms and ambulance.

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