



A Red Cross volunteer through the decades

Originally from Denver, LeBurta Atherton moved to Oahu with her family as a toddler and eventually married a descendant of a missionary family.

Today, the longtime Red Cross volunteer and Tiffany Circle member is 97 years old. She recalls the beginning of her Red Cross volunteer work during World War II in Hawaii. "We had volunteered to do any type of work necessary, and I became a 'Grey Lady' for the Red Cross."

LeBurta's priority as a Grey Lady was to aid military service members. "I started making bandages and helmet covers. I used to make fishnets for my husband, so I designed a little net for the helmets that the military men could stick leaves in to camouflage themselves."

"We also went to the hospital to cheer up [the soldiers]," says LeBurta. "We helped write letters to their families." She also recalls helping wounded soldiers obtain telephone numbers, reading them newspapers and serving them food.

You get more enjoyment if you give

LeBurta's spirit of generosity and commitment to volunteerism were important lessons that her parents taught her at a young age. "My daddy felt we should give, since we were lucky and well off," she says. "You get more enjoyment out of your life if you give. I have found that to be true."

To this day she remains an active supporter throughout the community. "I feel that the Red Cross does more for our community than any other volunteer organization does," says LeBurta.



Left: LeBurta Atherton as a Red Cross Grey Lady during World War II. Right: Hawaii Red Cross celebrates 97-year-old LeBurta Atherton on her years of service.

She continues to pass these lessons down to the next generation. Her eldest daughter, Balbi Brooks, is also a Tiffany Circle member and a current Red Cross disaster volunteer. She has assisted in Red Cross response efforts with Hurricane Sandy, as well as tropical storms Iselle and Flossie.

The Hawaii Red Cross recently celebrated the contributions of volunteer LeBurta Atherton as a kickoff to the chapter's 2017 Centennial, and is asking the public to share their Red Cross stories to preserve its legacy within the local community.

To learn more, please visit redcross.org/hi/honolulu

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Thank you for helping the Red Cross be there in a neighbor's time of need. To show your support today, please visit redcross.org/hi/honolulu



A message
from the
CEO

A tradition of hope

This March, we celebrate Red Cross Month. In this newsletter, we're highlighting all of the different Red Cross services that epitomize the Red Cross tradition of hope. It's a tradition that has been going strong for over a hundred years, thanks to you. Your support has touched countless people in our local community and beyond. From home fires to hurricanes, to lifesaving CPR and volunteer pet therapy visits at Tripler Army Medical Center, you provide hope when people need it most.

So as we celebrate Red Cross Month, I send my sincere thanks to you—the people of Hawaii, who help make the work of the Red Cross possible every day. Your generosity is making a real difference in the lives of people in crisis, and is helping our community prepare for whatever comes our way.

Coralie Chun Matayoshi, CEO
American Red Cross
Pacific Islands Region—
Hawaii, Guam, Saipan

Supporting those who serve our nation

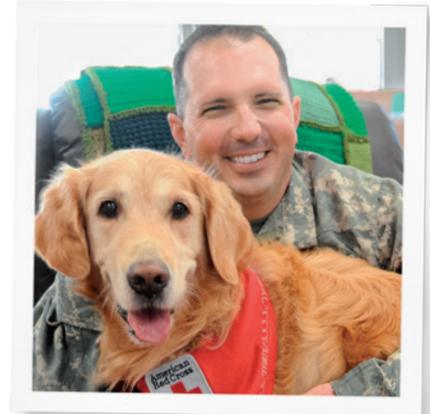
Since its founding, the American Red Cross has proudly served members of the U.S. military, veterans and their family members through your support.

Providing comfort and care to the wounded, ill and injured was central to the original mission of the Red Cross when Clara Barton worked to help military members during the Civil War. It continues to be one of our proudest duties and most heartfelt missions.

To honor our nation's heroes

Red Cross support for the military community runs a gamut of services, from training military families to be prepared in case of emergencies, to teaching service members skills to readjust to civilian life—we are humbled to do what we can to support our nation's heroes.

In Hawaii, the Red Cross has offices at Schofield, Hickam/Pearl Harbor, Kaneohe and Tripler. One of our most important services is to provide emergency communications. Hearing unexpected news is made all the more difficult when a loved one is far away. When a military family experiences an



Thank you for ensuring neighbors in need are not forgotten.

emergency—such as the death or serious illness of a family member—the Red Cross is there to deliver notification to service members, no matter their location, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Our Human Animal Bond Program utilizes the therapeutic healing power of animals to help patients recover from physical, social and mental illness. The Red Cross volunteer program at Tripler Army Medical Center has 250 volunteers in 46 departments and wards, including dozens of therapy dogs. Red Cross volunteers regularly bring their therapy animal to wards, clinics and waiting areas to bring comfort and joy to patients.

Learn more about how you can support members of the armed forces, military veterans and their families by visiting [redcross.org/what-we-do/support-military-families](https://www.redcross.org/what-we-do/support-military-families)

Oahu lifeguards receive lifesaving award



Melanie Tsuruda, Crystal Tamura, Kaysha Izumoto and Shanda Lee received the American Red Cross Lifesaving Award for the Professional Responder, which is one of the highest awards given by the Red Cross for lifesaving actions.

The team of lifeguards responded to a pool patron who appeared to be suffering from sudden cardiac arrest symptoms. They administered CPR and used an AED device, averting what could have been a tragic event. "It was most touching when the victim's wife thanked us for allowing her children to see their father again. We thank the Red Cross because without them we wouldn't be able to do what we do on a daily basis with such confidence," says Melanie.

Increasing awareness of home fire dangers



“Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in home fires by half.”

~Coralie Matayoshi

Across the nation, 7 people a day perish in home fires. As part of our mission of saving lives, the Red Cross recently launched a nationwide Home Fire Prevention Campaign to reduce the number of fire deaths and injuries by 25 percent within 5 years.

Hawaii Red Cross Clubs and Starbucks volunteers recently went door-to-door in local neighborhoods to schedule smoke alarm installations, and to distribute fire safety door hangers with information on smoke alarms, creating an escape plan and cooking and heating safely at home.

To learn more about home fire safety, visit redcross.org.

On MLK day, Honolulu firefighters, members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, local 1186 members and Red Cross volunteers from First Insurance Company of Hawaii installed free smoke alarms in 60 homes and discussed fire safety with residents.

Volunteers are educating the community

Across the nation, the American Red Cross responds to about 70,000 disasters each year (about one every 8 minutes), and in Hawaii, we respond to disasters every 4 days. Over 90 percent of these disasters are fire-related.

“Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in home fires by half,” says Coralie Matayoshi, CEO of the Hawaii Red Cross. “As a part of our work to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies, our local Red Cross volunteers are educating the community and providing vital information on fire safety and the importance of maintaining working smoke alarms.”

When a home fire or other disaster occurs, the Hawaii Red Cross assists with the immediate needs of those affected by providing food, clothing, shelter and crisis counseling. You can support those in the community affected by disasters like home fires by making a donation to the Hawaii Red Cross at redcross.org/Hawaii, or by calling 808-739-8109.

Donate your HawaiianMiles to the Hawaii Red Cross

Want to do even more to help the Red Cross?

- Log onto www.hawaiianair.com and sign in to your HawaiianMiles portal.
- Under “Manage My Account,” click on “Donate to Charities.”
- Choose the American Red Cross, Hawaii Chapter.
- Click on the “Donate Now” button to donate your HawaiianMiles to us.

Hawaiian Airlines will give the total miles donated to the American Red Cross, Hawaii Chapter and match the donation total, up to 500,000 miles.



Donate your car (Oahu only)

You can make a difference by donating your car through the American Red Cross Vehicle Donation Program. Donating your vehicle—in any condition—is another great way to help us help others. We accept cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, boats and even jet skis.



Call 1-855-927-2227 or visit redcross.org/cardonation for more information.

Stepping up for the community

After constantly seeing the Red Cross in the news for response efforts to disasters big and small, Oahu resident Shawn Saito decided that it was time to give back to his community by volunteering for the Red Cross—just as Hurricane Ana approached the islands.

After completing his Red Cross Volunteer online registration, he never thought that he would get called into action so soon. “Within a few days, I was called in to do a few crash course training sessions so that I could be certified to volunteer at a shelter,” Shawn says.

Answering the call

The day that the Oahu shelters opened for Hurricane Ana, Shawn reported to the Hawaii Red Cross Headquarters to complete his training. He was then offered the opportunity to shadow another volunteer at an actual shelter. Shawn jumped at this unique opportunity, and headed over to the Farrington High School shelter for his first Red Cross volunteer experience.

“Becoming a Red Cross disaster volunteer is one of the most fulfilling decisions I’ve ever made.”
~Shawn Saito



Your support saves lives.

“I only planned on staying for a few hours. However, after getting to meet new friends—both volunteers and guests—I ended up staying over 6 hours because I felt a great sense of purpose,” he says. At the shelter, Shawn registered and guided shelter residents, then assisted in keeping an ear on the radio to update the shelter team about any weather-related news.

“Becoming a Red Cross disaster volunteer is one of the most fulfilling decisions I’ve ever made, and I will absolutely answer the call when our residents face the next event that comes our way.”

Mahalo to our corporate sponsors for their support in helping local families

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Red Cross Response to Puna Lava Flow

Big Island Red Cross volunteers continue to work with the County of Hawaii in response to the Kilauea Volcano eruption and Pu'u Ō'ō lava flow. Red Cross volunteers have assisted in surveying hundreds of people at the Pahoa Community meetings to document potential disaster-caused needs of residents, and also have nurses and crisis counselors following up with local residents to help them with their personal disaster response plans. The Sure Foundation Church in Keeau has remained on stand-by as a shelter since October.