To our wonderful Volunteers and Supporters, Spring 2014

Not everyone realizes the scope of what Red Cross disaster volunteers really do. They are on call 24/7, 365 days a year to respond to local disasters like house fires and floods. They provide immediate emergency relief to victims of disaster such as food, clothing, and shelter.

But they also offer something that is intangible and irreplaceable — a shoulder to lean on, and hope that better days lie ahead. Our nurse and social worker volunteers provide health services and crisis counseling to those affected by disasters, ensuring that they have the proper care and support to help them to recover.

When the tragic Washington landslide occurred on March 22, Red Cross volunteers from across the nation were called upon to help with the relief efforts. Four of our Hawaii volunteers rose to the occasion and were deployed. One assisted with needed administrative support, another with health services, and two with disaster mental health services. Some of the volunteers who were deployed even left the same day that they were notified, showing how ready and willing they were to drop everything and rush to help those in need.

Ron, a social worker who deployed as a disaster mental health services volunteer, encountered many families and friends of those affected and described his assistance as observing, building trust and waiting for the right time to approach grieving families or volunteer rescue workers to provide emotional support. Other Red Cross volunteers provided assistance to the families of the deceased through condolence visits.

A Red Crosser stationed at the Arlington shelter saw a friend who lived close to the area of the mudslide, and asked if he had been impacted. His friend shared that he had left the house to get groceries, leaving his developmentally disabled son at home. He returned to find no home, and no son. Practically everyone in the shelter not only lost their home, but also had a loved one who had perished or was missing, making it an extremely somber shelter experience.

One Hawaii volunteer who was on her first deployment, shared her amazement with the sense of community that she encountered in Washington and also took note of how well the Red Cross, community helpers, government officials and other agencies worked together to respond to the needs of the families affected by the tragedy.

When our volunteers deploy to a national response, they bring back valuable experience and knowledge that will be used here in Hawaii when a major disaster strikes. Whether our volunteers help here in the islands or on the mainland, we are very proud and thankful to have them represent the Hawaii Red Cross and share the aloha spirit with everyone they encounter.

Your support makes all of this possible. Mahalo!

Coralie Chun Matayoshi
Chief Executive Officer
Summer Swim—Learn to Swim
Get off the beach and into the water! It’s time for our free annual Summer Swim Program at Ala Moana Beach. Adult and keiki can take this program which runs every Saturday in June, 2014 from 9am-10am. Register online at redcross.org/take-a-class or by calling 1-800-733-2767 and entering coupon code P298HILTS0714 (you must provide this code in order to get the training at no cost). Registration opens May 1, 2014, but space is limited. For more info or questions, call 739-8179 and leave a message. This is our 50th year the Hawaii Red Cross has provided this free program! No excuses, learn to swim this summer!

Donate Your HawaiianMiles to the Hawaii Red Cross
Log onto www.hawaiianair.com, sign in to your HawaiianMiles portal, and 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 take the total miles donated to the American Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter and match the donation total up to 500,000 miles. Mahalo for your support!

Mahalo to our Corporate Partners

Gold Partners:

Silver Partners:

Fantastic Opportunity to Support the Red Cross
- Guaranteed annual payments for life
- Rates from 4.7%-9% depending on your age
- Possible tax deductions
- A portion of your yearly income is tax-free
- Possible reduction in capital gains

You may qualify for a Charitable Gift Annuity through the American Red Cross. It’s a simple contract between you and the Red Cross that guarantees that you will receive a set amount of payments for life based on the amount you use to secure the gift annuity. The rate is based on your age. It’s easy to set up, you receive life income at a higher return than in the market place, and you get a nice tax deduction. For information and assistance, contact: Renee Kurdzos at 855-291-5222 (toll free) or renee.kurdzos@redcross.org.

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Sample rates for single life:

You received this mail because you supported the American Red Cross and/or expressed interest in future communications from us. We appreciate that you have chosen to receive emails from us so we can keep you informed of events as they happen. If you received this email in error or do not wish to receive future emails from the American Red Cross, please email timothy.kim@redcross.org noting your desire to be removed from the mail list. We respect your desire for privacy and will not share your name and address with third parties. 2006 The American National Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter. All Rights Reserved.