Remembering the impact of Hurricane Iniki 25 years later

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Santos was assigned to a military unit and often administered patient care from inside an aircraft. It was difficult to work under such conditions. However, adrenalin enabled her to remain productive, ensuring her patients were evacuated safely. “When called upon, you do some things you never thought you would do,” she says.

“That experience changed a lot in my life,” she says. “I don’t think I would forgive myself if I didn’t help with the Red Cross for the rest of my career.”

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CPR instructor saved by daughter she trained

In February 2017, Alofa Ofagalilo, who has been a CPR and First Aid Instructor for the Hawaii Red Cross for over 10 years, was getting ready for work when she suddenly started shaking and feeling nauseous. She lost consciousness but luckily was found by her 25-year-old daughter, who she had taught CPR to along with all of her other children. “Since I taught her CPR, she was able to go through the steps of checking me, asking someone to call 9-1-1, and then performing CPR on me,” recalls Alofa.

After about four minutes of CPR, the ambulance arrived. “Afterward, she told me that she was so grateful that she was taught CPR because she felt confident in that type of emergency situation,” says Alofa. “Without her training and knowledge of CPR, I am not sure that I would be here today teaching CPR for the Red Cross.”

Alofa is honored to have the opportunity to teach the Hawaii community these types of lifesaving skills so that they can also feel confident in helping their family and friends in potentially life-threatening emergencies. “I encourage everyone to take the time to learn these lifesaving skills because you never know when you could be placed in a situation where it’s needed.”

To find a class in your area, please visit redcross.org/take-a-class.

Red Cross supports military family after disastrous home fire

National Guard Captain Maria Guisadio-Abis was eating breakfast with her son when a fire broke out in another section of their two-story home. Good samaritans helped them safely evacuate. The house was later declared unlivable, leaving Maria and her son homeless. Her husband was deployed overseas.

Reuniting a family in crisis

“The Red Cross was very helpful in connecting me with my husband’s unit...He was able to return home within a week,” she says. “The Red Cross was very supportive with my family’s plight, keeping constant communication with our search for temporary housing and showed legitimate concerns with the emotional and physical well-being of all residents,” she says. “Thank you for all that you do!”

The Red Cross provides emergency communication 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for military service members and their families, while assisting in communicating emergency family matters such as serious illness, death in the family or birth of a child. Military commands rely on the Red Cross to verify information to allow military service members to return home to be with their families.

Thanks to the generosity of Hawaii’s people, all emergency communications assistance is free of charge.

Red Cross aids displaced residents at Marco Polo complex

In July, the Hawaii Red Cross worked tirelessly to aid residents left homeless following the deadly Marco Polo Fire. Volunteers quickly responded, helping residents to evacuate before opening a shelter at Iolani School.

More than 800 meals and snacks were served, and over 420 health and mental health services were provided. More than 500 disaster relief items, such as cleaning supplies, were distributed.

One Honolulu resident who lived there with her husband and mother lost everything they owned. “We just have the clothes on our backs,” she says. The Hawaii Red Cross was able to provide them assistance with temporary housing.

All Red Cross assistance to disaster victims is provided free of charge. Your donations ensure that volunteers continue to help others in times of crisis. Through your compassionate support, we bring hope to families like this—thank you!
Statistics represent January 1 to December 31, 2017

Here is how your support makes a difference

- Supported 840 shelters with nearly 211,000 overnight shelter stays
- Delivered more than 3.6 million meals and snacks
- Opened over 36,400 cases to provide one-on-one support

On a Personal Note

Coralie Chun Matayoshi
CEO
American Red Cross
Pacific Islands Region

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Aid for Marco Polo fire survivors

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You provide comfort through the storm

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Thank you for your help

Your generous support has helped those affected by Hurricane Harvey, Irma, Maria, and the wildfires in California and you have given them a place to turn for a sense of comfort and safety. Thanks to your compassion and generosity, we will continue to bring help and hope to our neighbors at home and down the street for as long as we are needed.

To learn more, please visit redcross.org.

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An average of 91 cents of every dollar the American Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.