
YOUTHWIRE

— *Impact Starts Here* —



**American
Red Cross**

Youth & Young Adults

OCTOBER 2024

Latest from the National Youth Council

Hi youth & young adult volunteers,

For over a month, exhausted families across the Southeast have been living with the inconceivable damage left behind after Milton and Helene. Many of our friends and family were in the storms' paths and are now dealing with debris, flooding, damaged homes and widespread power outages. To all of you affected, please know that our hearts are with you. We're here to support you through this tough time. Let's come together and show our strength and resilience.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

People need support now. Please help by making a financial donation, an appointment to give blood or platelets, or signing up to become a volunteer by visiting [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS ([800-733-2767](tel:800-733-2767)).

- Financial donations to help people affected by Hurricanes Milton and Helene enable the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from these disasters. You can also text the word HURRICANES to 90999 to make a donation.
- Thanks to the generosity of blood donors in unimpacted areas of the country, the Red Cross could ensure lifesaving blood products were available to patients ahead of these storms. Those outside of affected areas are encouraged to continue giving blood and platelets now. by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or using the [Blood Donor App](#) to help restock the shelves.
- If you would like to volunteer with the Red Cross, visit [redcross.org/volunteer](https://www.redcross.org/volunteer) to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Young Adult Spotlight Kaylee Kim



Kaylee Kim, YouthWire Lead of the National Youth Council

Kaylee Kim is a freshman in the Seven-Year BA/DDS Track with Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine. She has been an ardent volunteer since founding a Korean Red Cross youth chapter in Gwangju, South Korea, during middle school. Over the past 5 years, Kaylee's accomplishments were acknowledged with a nomination for the Clara Barton Honor Award for Meritorious Volunteer Leadership as the only high school student in the region. As a new member of the National Youth Council and the YouthWire Lead, she looks forward to expanding her impact nationwide. Contact Kaylee at kaylee.kim@redcross.org for any inquiries.

Stay safe and take care of each other!

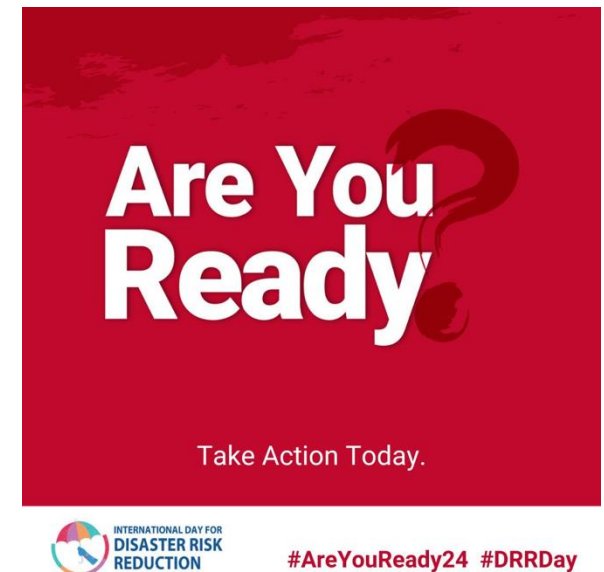
Games vs. Disaster



Support our disaster mission delivery efforts this October with our Gamers vs. Disaster campaign. Level up by raising funds for Red Cross disaster relief and earn a Rescue Royale baseball hat when you raise \$25 or more. *While supplies last. Play, stream, and make a difference — start your [fundraiser](#) today.

Do you know a volunteer who has gone above and beyond to make an impact in their community? Nominate them [here](#) so we can recognize their hard work.

International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDDRR)



The [International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction \(IDDRR\)](#) was on October 13, a day that the United Nations General Assembly has designated to serve as an opportunity to address the risk of disasters and the progress being made. It is important to recognize that advancements are continuing to be made to reduce risk, losses of

Every dollar you raise during Rescue Royale translates directly into vital resources for those in need. Your support helps the Red Cross deliver immediate relief and long-term recovery for families facing their most challenging times.

- \$11 provides 1 hot meal, snack and beverage to a person.
- \$20 provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner for someone staying at a Red Cross shelter in the aftermath of a storm.
- \$50 provides a full day of food and shelter for 1 person

Together, we can make a real difference. Your participation not only contributes to immediate disaster relief but also supports ongoing recovery efforts to rebuild lives and communities.

National Youth Involvement Month (NYIM)



lives, livelihoods, economies and infrastructure, with the main goal being to significantly increase access to disaster risk information and multi-hazard early warning systems.

- Learn more about the [Red Cross Disaster Relief services](#) and join us
- Learn about how the Red Cross is [building safer communities around the globe](#)
- Make a [Disaster Preparedness Plan](#)
- View our [Inclusive Preparedness Resources](#)

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024 calls on countries to harness the education sector to reduce the disaster risks of school-aged children, especially by investing in two key areas:

1. **Protect children and youth through safe schools and education facilities:** children are entitled to be safe in their schools and this starts with ensuring schools are disaster-resilient and are part of disaster early warning systems.
2. **Empower children and youth to be safe** through age-appropriate education to understand and act on the risks they face. This includes building their preparedness to take early action in response to early warnings. Empowered children become agents of change for more resilient communities.

FY25 NYIM Theme is **Pathway to Impact!**

National Youth Involvement Month is an annual initiative of the National Youth Council aiming to celebrate the accomplishments of Red Cross youth and young adult volunteers across the nation. Taking place in November, NYIM has a different theme each year and ultimately, connection to the Red Cross Mission by engaging youth and young adults in new challenges. Each week will be dedicated to various Red Cross initiatives and lines of service.

- Week 1: Kickoff!
- Week 2: Project Pioneers – Youth Involvement
- Week 3: Rescue Royale
- Week 4: MAPathon
- Week 5: NYIM Wrapped

Expand Your Knowledge

Do you know how the Red Cross is responding to Hurricane Milton and Helene?

3. **Endorse and implement** the [Comprehensive School Safety Framework 2022-2030](#), developed by the [Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector \(GADRRRES\)](#), which is chaired by UNESCO and UNICEF.

Make a Disaster Preparedness Plan



Do you know how to create an emergency plan? It's quick and simple! An emergency plan is more than just a "what if". Having a plan helps you act quickly and effectively. It minimizes chaos, keeps everyone safe, and ensures critical steps aren't overlooked.



We're in local communities across several states, working with partners to ensure people's basic needs are met.

- Hundreds of people are still staying in shelters across the affected states.
- In shelters, disaster health volunteers are caring for minor injuries and replacing things like eyeglasses and medications and mental health volunteers are providing comfort to those affected.
- Disaster kitchens are up and running, and dozens of Red Cross response vehicles are on the roads delivering hot meals along with water and supplies to people struggling to clean up their homes.
- With the help of partners, we've provided millions of meals and snacks, and more than 100,000 relief items like cleaning and hygiene supplies for thousands of affected families.
- In the mountains of western North Carolina, it's getting colder as power outages continue and many are choosing to stay close to their destroyed homes. We're supporting community care centers that provide amenities like showers, laundry, Wi-Fi, meals and water. And distribution sites are open where people can pick up things like camp stoves and fuel, generators, warm clothing and more.

- **Step 1:** With your family or household members, discuss how to prepare and respond to the types of emergencies most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play.
- **Step 2:** Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and determine how you will work together as a team.
- **Step 3:** Practice as many elements of your plan as possible to ensure you're ready when it counts.

Be familiar with natural disaster risks in your community:

- Consider how you will respond to emergencies that can happen anywhere, such as home fires and floods.
- Consider how you will respond to emergencies that are unique to your region, such as volcanoes, tsunamis or tornadoes.
- Think about emergencies that may require your family to shelter in place (such as a winter storm), vs. emergencies that may require evacuation (such as a hurricane).
- Consult our [emergency resource library](#) for tips on preparing for, responding to, and recovering from specific disasters

People affected by Milton and Helene urgently need help now, and we can't do this alone. You can make a difference today by donating on this post or texting the word HURRICANES to 90999.

What is YouthWire?

Created by your National Youth Council, YouthWire is a monthly e-newsletter containing important Red Cross youth volunteer opportunities, stories and resources for youth, young adults and youth champions! We always want to highlight great stories and hear what awesome things are happening in your region!

Let us know what's new for you!

Questions about youth volunteering with the American Red Cross? Email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org.

Get Social and Share!

Share YouthWire with your peers and invite them to [subscribe](#).

Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!



Help us tell the story of youth & young adults' incredible impact by submitting a [spotlight form](#) today.

Need Volunteer Connection support? Check out these helpful [guides and video tutorials!](#)



If you no longer want to receive YouthWire, please click here to [unsubscribe](#).

