
YOUTHWIRE

— *Impact Starts Here* —



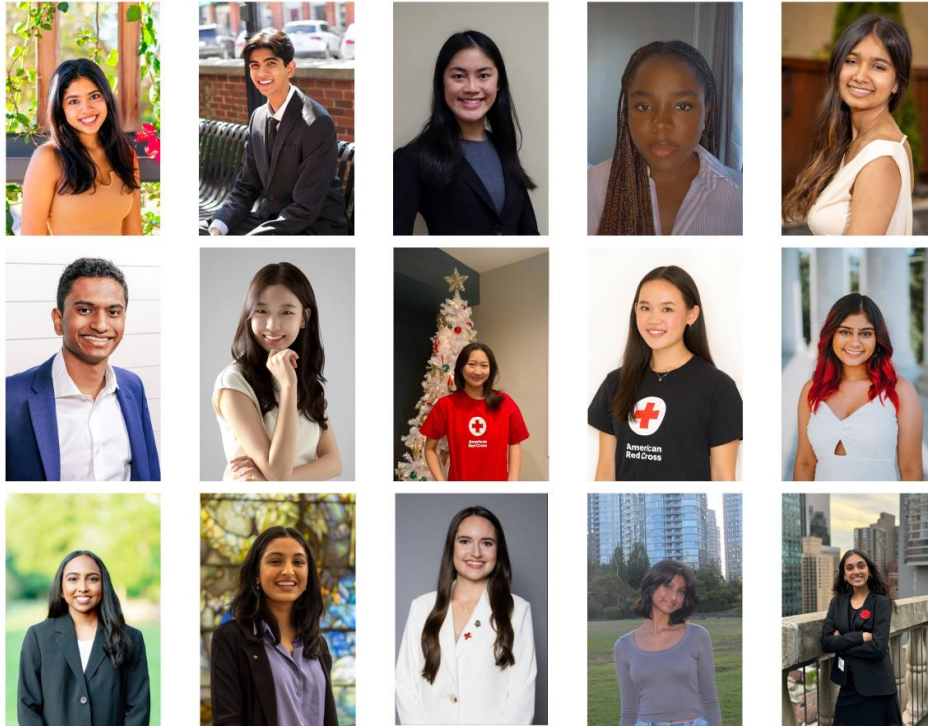
**American
Red Cross**

Youth & Young Adults

CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2024

Latest from Youth Leaders



Young Adult Spotlight: Natasha Banga



Natasha, Chair of the National Youth Council

Natasha is a junior at Stanford University studying Computer Science and is on the premed track. She's been involved with both the North Texas and Northern California Coastal Regions for five years in all lines of service—leading Blood Services volunteers, hosting Pillowcase Presentations, participating in IHL Youth Action Campaigns, and organizing a few fundraisers.

Hi youth & young adult volunteers!

The FY25 National Youth Council welcomes 7 new members and 8 returning members who began their terms in August as a team of 15. As we start this new term, we look forward to working

collaboratively with all of you to advance the goals of the American Red Cross and make a meaningful impact in our communities. Learn more about our Red Cross journeys and involvements [here](#).

Help Save Lives with UMOJA & VIDA Resource Groups



In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and Sickle Cell Awareness Month, the VIDA and UMOJA Resource Groups are launching the Battle of the Resource Groups from September 1st to October 15th. Each group has its own unique link to track participation, and when the drive wraps up, let's see which team rallied the most support!

[VIDA BloodLink](#)
[UMOJA BloodLink](#)

Your blood donation can help the Red Cross ensure a robust and diverse blood supply and save lives! Diversity is important within our national blood supply to support all patients, but especially those that rely on frequent blood transfusions, like patients living with sickle cell disease.

Natasha served as Co-President of Coppell High School's Red Cross Club for two years, was appointed Line of Service Officer for the North Texas Youth Services Executive Board, served as Field Ambassador, and most recently as the Field Relations Working Group Lead of the FY24 National Youth Council.

Young Adult Spotlight: Harsh Singh



Harsh, Vice-Chair of the National Youth Council

Harsh is a freshman at Stanford University studying Computer Science with a concentration in Artificial

Expand Your Knowledge

Medical Explorers: Dr. Chris Arakawa



Interested in building a career in healthcare or a health-related field? Join us for a new monthly virtual fireside chat series where you'll have the opportunity to hear from a different healthcare professional every month: from medicine and nursing to biotech, public health and more! Register [here](#) on the Youth & Young Adult Shift Tool on Volunteer Connection.

Our first speaker is a biomedical engineer and physician, Dr. Chris Arakawa. Chris is a 2nd year pediatric cardiology fellow at Stanford University. He completed his MD/PhD at the University of Washington where he developed the first synthetic human capillaries, created heart and kidney organoids, and created new types of materials for drug delivery. After his PhD he worked as a post-doctoral scientist at the National Institute for Materials Science in Tsukuba, Japan where he studied the effects of topography on efficacy of chemotherapeutics.

Youth and Young Adult Ambassador Applications

The Field Ambassador Program (FA) and National Collegiate Assembly (NCA) have been a core component of the National Youth Council's initiatives to grow nationwide youth engagement for several years, and this year we are rolling the two programs into the Youth and Young Adult Ambassador Program!

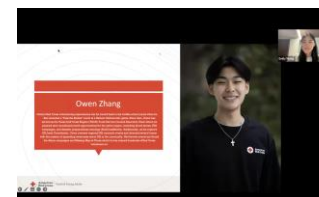
Intelligence. An ardent volunteer since sophomore year of high school, he's served the American Red Cross in multiple capacities.

Over the past three years, Harsh has raised tens of thousands of dollars via fundraising projects in the North Texas Region, conducted hundreds of placement interviews for prospective youth volunteers, and presented future-forward outreach strategies to the National Headquarters Marketing and Communications department.

Most recently, Harsh spearheaded the nationwide "Rescue Royale" and "March is Red Cross Month" rollouts as last year's Campaign Lead of the National Youth Council.

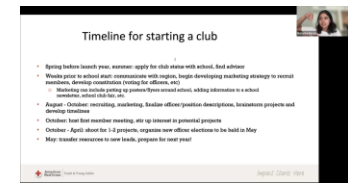
Summer Series Recap

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Summer Series events this summer! Here are some highlights from the events:



We are looking for one youth (under 18 years old) and young adults (18–24 years old) ambassador from each region to be a part of this year's cohort. Ambassadors will work on regional projects and be involved in National Youth Council initiatives throughout the year. Applications are open now and will close on **October 8th**.

Visit the [Youth and Young Adult Ambassador](#) website for more information about the application process.



As we experiment with implementing new programs, we always need your feedback! If you participated in the 2024 Summer Series, please fill out [this](#) form. The last day to submit your feedback is Monday, September 30. Responses will inform the planning of future events and initiatives. As always, thank you so much for your continued support!

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!

Make it count!

Remember to log your hours



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!](#)



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