January Edition

American Red Cross

YOUTHWIRE

Impact Starts Here



Latest from the National Youth Council

Happy New Year, Red Cross family!

The National Youth Council hopes your 2026 is off to an inspiring start. As we begin this new year, we're excited to continue uplifting the incredible work of youth and young adult volunteers across the country. Your passion, leadership and dedication made 2025 an unforgettable year?—?and we can't wait to see all the impact you'll create in 2026.

As we look ahead, March brings one of the most meaningful moments of the year: **American Red Cross Month**. It's a time when we honor the humanitarian values that unite us and recognize the volunteers who make our mission possible.

We're also thrilled to share that a **special Spring Challenge is coming soon!** Stay tuned — you'll be able to find all the details in the February edition of YouthWire.

From service, to leadership, to uplifting our movement, we're excited to kick off another year alongside you.

National Youth Involvement Month 2025: Thank You & Reflections

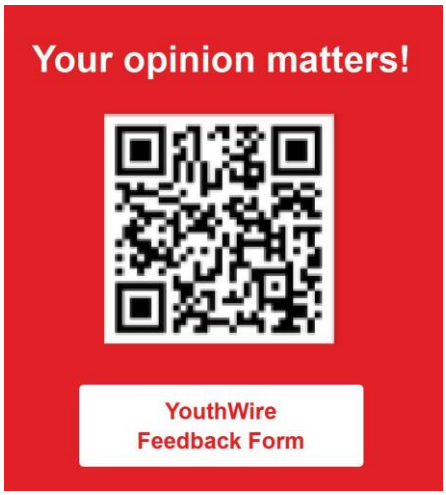


National Youth Involvement Month 2025 officially came to a close on November 30. The National Youth Council would like to sincerely thank everyone for their hard work and commitment throughout the month, especially those who participated in the Emergency App Quest and attended our NYIM events.

We saw an incredible level of engagement, along with dedicated volunteers and inspiring speakers who helped make this month impactful and meaningful. Ultimately, we hope NYIM provided fresh perspectives on the Red Cross mission and sparked new ideas on how to stay engaged and keep the momentum — or "motion" — going in your volunteer service and beyond.

Thank you for everything you do to support and uplift our youth volunteers.

We Need Your Voice: YouthWire Feedback!



Your feedback plays a key role in helping us improve YouthWire and ensure it continues to meet the needs and interests of our youth community. We're exploring several updates to make the newsletter even more engaging and accessible — including the possibility of offering a Spanish-language version alongside other enhancements. By sharing your thoughts, you help shape future editions, highlight what matters most to you, and guide us in creating a better experience for everyone.

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To share your feedback, click here.

January Council Topic: National Blood Donor Month



Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood — and January's National Blood Donor Month reminds us just how critical a stable blood supply is. Blood transfusions support patients facing surgeries, trauma, cancer treatments, anemia, childbirth complications and more. As a key provider of nearly 40% of the nation's blood, the American Red

Cross relies on volunteers, especially youth and young adults, to help ensure that lifesaving blood products reach hospitals nationwide. A single donation can support up to three patients, proving that even a short commitment can make a life-changing impact. This month, we recognize donors, volunteers and the essential role young leaders play in sustaining our mission of saving lives.

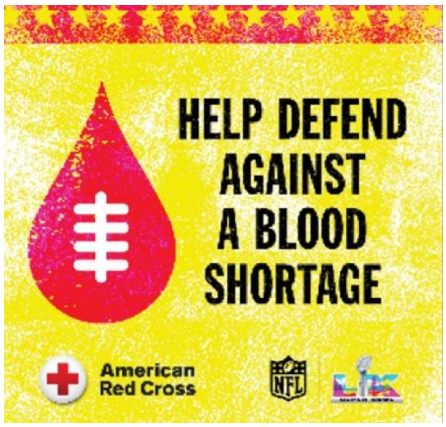
Get involved by:

- Volunteering as a Blood Donor Ambassador
- Promoting local blood drives at your school or campus
- Sharing educational resources about blood donation
- Helping recruit first-time donors in your community

To learn more, **click here**.

Blood Donors Needed:

Kick off 2026 with a blood, platelet or plasma donation! When you donate with the Red Cross anytime from Jan. 1-25, you'll automatically get a chance to score a getaway to Super Bowl LX in California. Schedule your appointment to give **here**! Participants must be 18 years or older to be eligible.



Show your support for patients in need this winter. You'll get a $15 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice from the Red Cross when you come to give blood or platelets Jan. 26-Feb. 28. Schedule your appointment to give **here**!



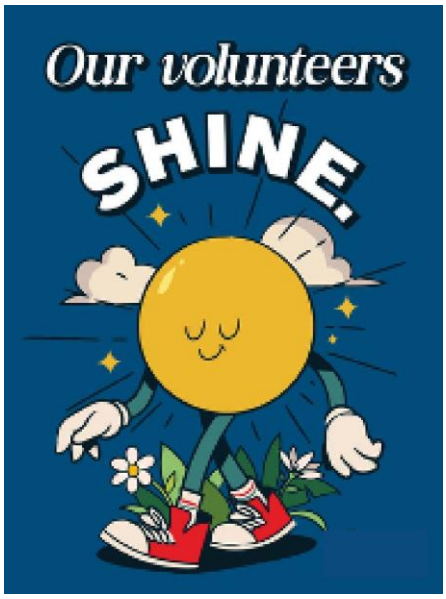
Expand Your Knowledge:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Each year, we observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the third Monday of January to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King, a leader whose work transformed the nation. Born on January 15, 1929, MLK Jr. dedicated his life to advancing civil rights, equality and justice through nonviolence. His iconic "I Have a Dream" speech continues to inspire generations. Today, this federal holiday is also a National Day of Service, encouraging individuals and communities to give back through acts of kindness, volunteerism and solidarity — reflecting Dr. King's commitment to building a more just and compassionate society.

National Youth Day



On January 12th, we celebrated National Youth Day, a day that recognizes and celebrates the leadership, passion and limitless potential of young people. This observance highlights the importance of youth in driving service, innovation and community resilience — core values that reflect the mission of the American Red Cross. Young volunteers play a vital role in our organization, leading outreach efforts, supporting preparedness, and elevating humanitarian action across the country. National Youth Day reminds us that when youth are empowered and given space to lead, they create meaningful and lasting change. Today, we honor their dedication, voice and impact in building a stronger and more compassionate future.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Anna Maxwell



Anna? is president of the Washington Middle College High School Red Cross Club, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, and Youth Ambassador for the California Gold Country Region. Read Anna's Red Cross story **here**.

Shiv Bansal

Shiv? is ?Blood Donor Ambassador, CPR-certified volunteer, and Youth & Young Adult Ambassador for the Missouri-Arkansas Region. Learn more about Shiv's Red Cross journey here.



Emma Russell

Emma? is Disaster Public Affairs volunteer for Eastern New York and Special Projects member for the Northeast Division. Discover Emma's Red Cross impact here.



Tanisha Tamilarasan

Tanisha is Editor-in-Chief for the Pacific Northwest Region American Red Cross Volunteer Services Newsletter and member of the International Community School Red Cross Club. Explore Tanisha's volunteer story here.



Other Youth and Young Adult Stories

- Lakshitha, at just 16, is helping make every blood donation experience welcoming and impactful
- See how UF Red Cross volunteers are making a real impact in their community
- See how youth volunteers honor and support our nation's veterans
- Read Olivia's inspiring story of hope, remission, and the lifesaving power of blood donors
- Meet Max — a youth volunteer teaching lifesaving skills and inspiring his community

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Share Youth Success Stories

We are gathering the great things happening with our youth and young adults across the country, and we need your help. No example is too big or too small. Click here to submit your success story!



Not sure what to share? Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- What makes your Red Cross Club successful?
- How does your region recognize young people's efforts?
- What makes a good onboarding experience for young people?

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**.



If you no longer wish to receive YouthWire, **click here to unsubscribe**

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Staying in touch via the American Red Cross email list is the best way we have of keeping in regular contact with supporters like you, letting you know about how you can protect yourself and your loved ones from disasters and other emergencies, and how you can support our lifesaving work.

Click here to unsubscribe from our list, but please know that if you leave, it will be harder for you to stay involved with the Red Cross and continue the work of which you've been such a critical part. It is only because of supporters like you

that the Red Cross is able to respond when a disaster strikes or a home is impacted by fire, when someone needs CPR or a lifesaving blood transfusion, or when a family needs to contact a deployed service member in an emergency. And we don't want to lose you! Thanks for your support!

Please do not reply to this email as we are not able to respond to messages sent to this address.

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A gift of any size supports all of the urgent humanitarian needs of the American Red Cross.

The Red Cross is proud that an average of 90 cents of every dollar we spend is invested in delivering care and comfort to those in need.