
YOUTHWIRE

— *Impact Starts Here* —



**American
Red Cross**

Youth & Young Adults

CELEBRATING RED CROSS HISTORY & CREATING OUR FUTURE

MAY 2024

Latest from Youth Leaders:
Red Cross History & Building Our Future Together



This May marks two special milestones and celebrations for the American Red Cross as we celebrate the history of our beloved organization! May 8 is World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, a day dedicated to honoring the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality. On this day, recognize the incredible efforts and contributions of our volunteers and staff around the globe by supporting activities and events in our International Services and Service to the Armed Forces mission, like the [International Humanitarian Law Youth Action Campaign](#).

For over a century, the American Red Cross' commitment to alleviating human suffering and supporting those in need has remained unwavering. From its humble beginnings to its global presence today, the Red Cross has been at the forefront of disaster response, community resilience and humanitarian aid. Join us this May 21 in commemorating a vast 143 years of service and reflecting on the countless lives we've touched together through the mission of the American Red Cross. We reflect on our achievements, honor our

Youth Spotlight:
Charan Ramidi



Charan Ramidi, High School Volunteer

Charan's journey with the Red Cross began with a simple desire to make a difference in his community. Inspired by a presentation at his school about the organization's humanitarian efforts, Charan eagerly sought out opportunities to get involved. He started by volunteering at local blood drives and quickly became passionate about the Red Cross mission to alleviate human suffering and support those in need. As he deepened his involvement, Charan took on leadership roles within the organization, eventually serving as Vice President of the Missouri-Arkansas Red Cross Hub Club.

dedicated volunteers, and reaffirm our commitment to alleviating human suffering and promoting kindness worldwide.

Youth Volunteerism Research Study



American
Red Cross

DoSomething **Strategic**
A SOCIAL IMPACT CONSULTANCY

The Future of Volunteerism

As we reflect on our storied past, we are thrilled to be able to help shape our future stories of impact. So, our team has partnered with DoSomething Strategic to learn from our youth leaders of what's most important to **YOU!** Our goal is to help ensure humanitarian efforts are more accessible and impactful than ever before. Take the [5-minute survey](#) and send it to a friend! Invite other Red Cross volunteers ages 13-24 you volunteer with to help share their voices and perspectives in this national research study! We even put together some [sample messaging](#) to be able to start the conversation! We can't wait to hear your valuable ideas and feedback about how we strengthen volunteering with our American Red Cross!

Summer Transitions

As Vice President, Charan spearheaded various initiatives to expand the reach and impact of the Red Cross within his community. One of his most notable achievements was organizing a series of disaster preparedness workshops in collaboration with local schools and community centers. These workshops not only provided valuable information on emergency preparedness but also empowered individuals to take proactive measures to safeguard themselves and their families in times of crisis.

In addition to his work at the local level, Charan actively participated in national Red Cross initiatives, attending conferences and seminars to further his knowledge and contribute to the organization's broader goals. His dedication and passion for humanitarian work earned him recognition within the Red Cross community and inspired others to join the cause.

Beyond his official duties, Charan consistently demonstrates compassion and empathy in his interactions with those he serves. Whether comforting disaster victims, assisting blood donors, or training volunteers, he approaches every task with genuine care and a commitment to making a positive impact.

Through his journey with the Red Cross, Charan not only fulfilled his desire to make a difference but also became a catalyst for change in his community, embodying the principles of compassion, integrity, and service.

Do you know of a volunteer who has gone above and beyond to make a memorable impact in their



Are you headed to a new school or a new city this fall? Joining another Red Cross Club or looking to engage in a different department? Check out the [Red Cross Club locator](#) to find your next Club to support! To find your Red Cross Chapter, use the [Zip Code Finder tool](#).

community? Youth Spotlight is a fantastic opportunity for you to nominate outstanding volunteers to receive national recognition for their hard work! Nominate a youth volunteer who deserves this opportunity [here](#).

May Monthly Focus: Military Appreciation Month



In honor of Military Appreciation Month this May, the Red Cross celebrates the courage and sacrifice of our nation's heroes. From veterans to active-duty personnel, their dedication safeguards our freedoms and way of life. Join us in expressing gratitude by sharing stories, volunteering and participating in events that honor their service. Ways that you can get involved:

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Spotlight



May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Month and Jewish American Heritage Month! Throughout this important month, we honor the accomplishments that Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Jewish Americans have made to our country while also celebrating their unique histories and customs. By sharing their experiences and history, we seek to raise awareness and educate others about the culture!

Here are some ways to keep yourself engaged this month:

- Join this month's Cultural Competency Series on May 10, "**Not About Me Without Me**", highlighting community resiliency in native Hawaiian communities amid Red Cross response and recovery efforts to the **2023 Maui wildfires**.
- Listen in on the previous AAPI Conversations on a discussion of the article, [Asians feel least included in the workplace out of all racial groups](#), new report says.
- Join the Red Cross [Asian American and Pacific Islander Resource group](#) to create awareness about this community.

- [Hosting a gift drive for a veteran's hospital](#)
- Participating in the ["Totes of Hope" program for homeless veterans](#),
- Prepare families for deployments
- Volunteer at military hospitals

Together, let's show our unwavering support for our military members and their families, underscoring our commitment to serve those who serve us.

Fundraising Highlight: June Swim Challenge

- Explore the stories and achievements of Jewish Americans through the ages with the [Jewish American Heritage Month website](#).
- Join virtual events or webinars highlighting Jewish American culture, history and achievements.
- Participate in activities that promote understanding and appreciation of Jewish American heritage in your community.

You can [read more](#) about this month's DEI observances from our Chief Diversity Officer, Adrienne Alberts.



Calling all swimmers! Dive into action this June and support swim lessons in communities with a higher risk of drowning by joining the 15 Mile Swim Challenge hosted by the American Red Cross. Join the [Facebook group](#) for community and motivation, [start a fundraiser](#), and we'll send you your Red Cross swim cap and tote bag when you receive your first donation! [Register today!](#)

Contact P2PFundraising@redcross.org with questions.

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!

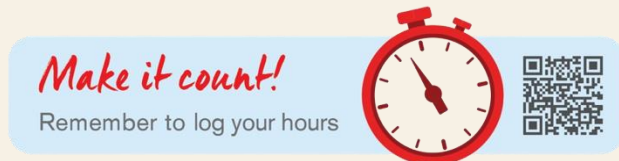
Let us know what's new for you!

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!](#)



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