A Recap of the 2015 Tiffany Circle Summit



American Red Cross Tiffany Circle



One of the five delightful World War II Red Cross volunteers who joined us at the Chairman's Dinner on Saturday evening, flanked by her military escorts. Over 220 friends attended the 2015 Tiffany Summit in Washington, DC, on October 2-3. Here's a snapshot of what they experienced:

• **Meet your Buddy Coffee**: The hospitality suite, home base for the weekend, was abuzz as members of the National Council met with over 45 first-time attendees to meet, greet and welcome them the Summit.

• **Mission Experiences** The weather played havoc with the intended fire canvassing event, but members were able to visit *Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers' Office*. The tour highlighted Clara's tireless work to connect missing soldiers and their families after the Civil War, the genesis behind today's vital *Restoring Family Links* program.

• **Celebration of Philanthropy Dinner**. The historic Mellon Auditorium was the setting for this special dinner. Keynote speaker, **Christine Lagarde**, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), described the

imperative to provide humanitarian assistance in economically struggling countries. She eloquently underscored the complementary missions of the Red Cross and the IMF. The finale was a performance by young fire campaign supporter and country singer **Dakota Bradley**.

- **Tiffany Circle Bookclub** featured author Dr. Julia Irwin discussing her book *Making the World Safe*. She vividly outlined the critical role of the Red Cross in WWI, showing many vintage photos and posters.
- Ignite the T.O.R.C.H. stands for the ways that member chapters and individuals are Taking Our Red Cross Higher! Surrounding the ballroom were booths festooned with banners and balloons featuring innovative ways to promote the Tiffany Circle. The energy was palpable as Tiffany Circle members directly shared innovative ideas ranging from support of the military, using influence or social media to attract new members to the pillowcase project and way to build a culture of diversity.
- Three **Inspiration Sessions** featured members and guest speakers on the topics of being prepared, the home fire campaign and the international measles initiative. Poignant stories and facts informed all.
- At the **President's Luncheon** Red Cross President and CEO Gail McGovern presented an in-depth overview of the state of the Red Cross. NPR/ABC commentator Cokie Roberts presented a review of Clara Barton's life in Washington. She then moderated a panel of esteemed female executives and philanthropists including Gail McGovern, Tina Tyler (Executive VP and Chief Stores Officer for Target), Jimmie Paschall (Executive VP and Head of Enterprise Diversity at Wells Fargo) and Maya Rogers (CEO BluePlanet Software, Inc.) with her signature quips and insights.

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- The **Chairman's Dinner** was a salute to the military hosted by Red Cross Board Chairman Bonnie McElveen-Hunter. She spoke from her heart about the role the Red Cross plays in support of our armed services. The evening began with a tribute and standing ovations to five WWII Red Cross volunteers, two of which were 100 years old! Wounded warrior, actor and author J.R. Martinez shared his inspiring story of recovery and reliance. *VoicePlay* entertained with their amazing a cappella sounds and humor. Tiffany Circle members Barbara Bovender, Mary Pang and Anita Zucker (via video) announced the new Tiffany Hall Campaign as eleven people joined Gail McGovern and Bonnie McElveen-Hunter on the stage as initial donors! To date, fifteen women have invested \$2.9 million in the campaign.

Want more information? Please contact Carolyn Lane at <u>carolyn.lane@redcross.org</u>. Thank you for being such a vital part of our mission!