



The Torch



American Red Cross
Tiffany Circle

SPRING 2026 EDITION — CO-CHAIR LETTER

Dear Tiffany Circle members,

This spring, we're energized by the mission-driven engagement happening across our network, including more than 100 participants in our recent Tiffany Circle Impact Call, themed "Down the Street, Across the Country and Around the Globe." Your leadership, advocacy and support continue to advance the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross, and we're thrilled to share an exciting next step in that momentum.

In May and June, we will hold our first-ever Women Leading with Heart and Humanity Virtual Blood Drive. Women inspire action, and when women motivate women to give, volunteer and donate blood, the impact multiplies. A formal announcement with detailed action steps will be shared the first week of May. Please visit this [BloodLink](#) to schedule your blood donation appointment for May or June today!

As we track our progress toward the goals outlined in the [FY26–FY27 Strategic Plan](#), there is much to celebrate. As of March 30, 2026:

- Our sisterhood has grown to **more than 1,500 passionate members**.
- We have directly contributed over **\$38 million** and have influenced an additional **\$18 million** in support for the American Red Cross.
- Together, we've logged **more than 29,900 volunteer hours**, demonstrating the incredible power of our collective service.

Your energy continues to move the Tiffany Circle forward. Thanks to you, we are growing stronger, bolder and more inspiring every day. To this point, we ask that every Tiffany Circle member join the members of the Tiffany Circle National Council and recruit one new woman in your world to either join Tiffany Circle or the Clara Barton giving society, or to join

you in one mission event. If we each do this, we double our size and impact across the country. For more information on ways to engage women in your life in our lifesaving mission, visit redcross.org/WomenImpact.

Just imagine what we can ignite together when each of us reaches out to one more woman.

Let's keep the momentum going!

In service,

Marilyn and Laura



Marilyn T. McClure Demers
Co-Chair, Tiffany Circle
National Council



Laura Linger
Co-Chair, Tiffany Circle
National Council



CO-CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENT: CELEBRATING AND ENGAGING OUR TORCHBEARERS

We're excited to share that Torchbearers — members with past service on the Tiffany Circle National Council — will now be recognized as members of the newly named Torchbearer Leadership Society, a refreshed name that honors their service on the Council and the lasting impact of their leadership.

Over the past 18 years, Torchbearers have played a vital role in building the Tiffany Circle, helping grow our community to more than 1,500 members and raise \$280 million in support of the American Red Cross. We look forward to honoring this legacy at a special Torchbearer

Recognition Gathering during the 2027 Tiffany Circle Summit, where we will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Tiffany Circle's founding.

FORWARD TOGETHER: KATE FORBES FOR PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC).

Kate Forbes has announced her intention to seek an additional term as President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). A proud member of the Arizona and New Mexico Region Tiffany Circle, Kate understands the power of women's philanthropy and volunteer leadership within the American Red Cross and the global movement. She remains committed to strengthening our global network and advancing principled humanitarian action. The election will be held November 30 in Geneva, Switzerland.



Kate Forbes — President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

Northern California Region

Celebrating Gratitude and Volunteerism in Northern California

The Northern California Tiffany Circle hosted its annual Holiday Gratitude Luncheon at the Allied Arts Guild in Palo Alto on November 14, bringing together 33 members and friends for a day of connection and service. Attendees packed comfort kits for unhoused veterans and heard from volunteers Marianna Thomas and Laura Hovden, who shared their experiences on Red Cross disaster deployments. Their presentations highlighted the importance of leadership and adaptability during challenging responses, including deployments to Guam, the Tubbs Fire in Northern California and Alaska. Members also received a preview of the 2026 San Francisco Gala and collected their annual Tiffany Circle charms.



Members of the Northern California Tiffany Circle gather at their annual holiday luncheon.

Illinois Region

The Illinois Tiffany Circle Sponsors the Great Chicago Blood Drive for the Third Consecutive Year

This year marked the 12th annual ABC7 Great Chicago Blood Drive and the third consecutive year that the Illinois Tiffany Circle served as the event's Signature Sponsor. Led by ABC 7 meteorologist and Illinois Tiffany Circle member Cheryl Scott, the Great Chicago Blood Drive has grown into the largest two-day blood drive in the country.

Held during a critical time of year when blood collections are historically low, this year's event collected 2,603 units of lifesaving blood. In addition to providing essential financial support, members donated blood and volunteered at sites across the region. Over the past three years, the Illinois Tiffany Circle has raised more than \$600,000 in support of our Blood Services mission, helping ensure blood is available when patients need it most.



LEFT PHOTO (Pictured from left to right): Kellie O'Connell, Christine Quinn and Linda Chapin

RIGHT PHOTO (Pictured from left to right): Laura Myerholtz, Emma Ratajczak, Elizabeth Peterson, Bridget Lynch, Lisa Zang, Lisa Badgley, Kellie O'Connell and Cheryl Scott

New Jersey Region

Women of Impact: New Jersey Delivers the Gift of Life for the Holidays

Nearly 90 blood donors came together at the 12th Annual Stay Strong Michael Blood Drive in Chatham, New Jersey, where the “Chatham Moms” and the New Jersey Tiffany Circle united in a lifesaving purpose. Born from the community’s response to Chatham resident Michael DiMaggio’s traumatic accident and need for lifesaving transfusions, the event has grown into one of New Jersey’s largest blood drives. This year brought a full-circle moment, as Michael, now recovered, donated blood beside the women who once rallied for him.



New Jersey Tiffany Circle, Chatham Moms and Red Cross staff at the “Stay Strong Michael” Blood Drive held in the Chatham High School gymnasium. (Pictured from left to right:) Sheri Ferreira, Rosalinda Rubio-Williams, Laura Bielskie, Christy Hodde, Tammy Atwood, Nicole DiMaggio, Michael DiMaggio and Catherine Tantillo (back left), Michelle Clark, Monica Mattaur (back right), Laomi Harewood, Marguerite White and Melissa Fitzgerald

Central and Southern Ohio Region

Tiffany Circle Facilitates Hands-Only CPR Training for 21 People

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the U.S., and most cardiac emergencies don’t occur in hospitals. They happen at home, at work and around the people we know and love. Learning hands-only CPR can save a life.



This past February, which was American Heart Month, the Central Ohio Chapter taught 21 people how to save a life during a Red Talk Watch Party, themed Be Your Heart's Valentine — Stay Heart Smart and CPR Ready. Tiffany Circle member **Lorena Gerlach**, who recently became certified as a Red Cross Hands-Only CPR presenter, alongside Community Disaster Program Manager Emily Hesselbein, demonstrated the technique to those in attendance.

Left to right: Tiffany Circle members Joyce Guenther, Marilyn McClure Demers, Ellen Berndt and Lorena Gerlach

North and Central Florida

Tiffany Circle Gathers in Naples for Sisterhood, Service and Philanthropy

Tiffany Circle members from across the nation gathered in Naples, Florida, for an inspiring celebration of sisterhood and the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross. Hosted graciously by **Nancy Peery Marriott** at the beautiful Ritz-Carlton, more than 20 women gathered to share their passion, purpose and commitment to strengthening communities through philanthropy.

We were honored to hear from Nancy Perry Marriott and Tiffany Circle co-founder **Melanie Sabelhaus**, as well as a powerful mission moment from Julie Ferguson, Executive Director of the Cape Coral Caring Center — one of our dedicated community partners providing critical food support to families in need. Together, we are growing leadership, deepening impact and fueling the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross.



Pictured left to right: Executive Director for the Southwest Florida Chapter John McKinnon, Lana Unrig, Regional Executive Krista Coletti, Chief Development Officer Jennifer Eubanks, Melanie Sabelhaus, Karen Hendricks, Nancy Peery Marriott, Lisa Gruenloh, Cindy Imperato, Regional Director of Development and Tiffany Circle lead Ellen Vaughan, Susie Trotachaud, Sue Hassmiller, Julie Ferguson and Cindy Magnuson

South Florida Region

65th International Red Cross Ball in Palm Beach Raises \$2.8 Million

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and attendees, more than \$2.8 million was raised at the 65th International Red Cross Ball on Friday, January 9, 2026, hosted by the Palm Beach and Treasure Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross. The historic event welcomed more than 490 distinguished guests, including ambassadors and dignitaries from around the world and decorated heroes of the U.S. Armed Forces, to celebrate and fund the Service to the Armed Forces mission of the Red Cross.

This year marked the fourth year of exceptional leadership by Dame **Amanda Schumacher** and Mr. Charles Schumacher as Ball Chairs. Their unwavering dedication, generosity and compassion were celebrated throughout the night, including the announcement of their induction into the Chairman's Council by Ambassador **Bonnie McElveen Hunter** — recognizing philanthropic leaders whose lifetime giving to the Red Cross exceeds \$1 million. Their legacy of service will continue to inspire our community for years to come.

The Ball also honored General Randy A. George, the 41st Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, and his wife, Patty George, with the distinguished Patriots Legacy Award for their lifetime of service as a military family. Guests were deeply moved by a reflection from Medal of Honor recipient Retired Master Sergeant Earl Plumlee, who shared how the Red Cross's response to a disaster in his youth shaped his lifelong commitment to service — underscoring the enduring importance of our mission.

Guests enjoyed an elegant evening featuring dinner, dancing and the unique opportunity to meet more than a dozen international ambassadors representing countries such as Austria, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Tanzania and Thailand. The evening concluded with a joyful parade of candlelit birthday cakes and a heartfelt chorus of "Happy Birthday" sung by guests, marking the ceremonial start of our nation's 250th anniversary celebrations.



LEFT PHOTO (Pictured from left to right): Chairman of the Ball Dame Amanda Schumacher and Charles Schumacher

RIGHT PHOTO (Pictured from left to right): Tweed Bogache, Ambassador Bonnie McElveen Hunter and Michelle Kang

Missouri Arkansas Region

Tiffany Circle Gathering Highlights Mission in Action

The Greater Kansas City Tiffany Circle gathered for a festive holiday celebration, applauding the success of a Tiffany Circle-led campaign supporting the community's new Blood Donation Center. Members heard an inspiring story from a blood recipient, underscoring the impact of their commitment to the mission. **Sherri Odell** was presented with the Armacost Humanitarian Award for her years of service and her exceptional leadership in the challenge campaign. It was a meaningful evening of gratitude and celebration.



LEFT PHOTO (Pictured from left to right): Susan Spaulding, Alison Jager, Dana Nelson, Mikayla Odell, Ellen Cray, Sherri Odell, Diane Johnson, Corliss Miller, JoAnn Woody and Jennifer Gille Bacon

RIGHT PHOTO (Pictured from left to right): Sherri Odell and JoAnn Woody

Tennessee Region

Celebrating Community and Lifesaving Skills with the East

Tennessee Tiffany Circle

On August 25, 2025, the East Tennessee Tiffany Circle was joined by the Executive Committee of the Nashville Tiffany Circle at the stunning boathouse of member Jenny Boyd and her husband, Randy, nestled along the Tennessee River. Forty women came together for an inspiring afternoon of connection, empowerment and education.

During the event, Former First Lady Crissy Haslam shared a deeply moving story about a close friend whose quick thinking helped save a life. When Haslam's friend's husband collapsed from a heart attack, she immediately called 911. With calm guidance from the emergency operator, she performed CPR until paramedics arrived. Thanks to her courage and the support she received in that critical moment, her husband survived. Today, he is alive and well—a living testament to the power of being prepared. Participants then witnessed a demonstration of hands-only CPR, emphasizing the importance of lifesaving skills that anyone can learn and use.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Rowena Dolor Cuffe, Keri McInnis, Anne L. Russell, Jennifer Wolcott, Barbara Bovender, Jenny Boyd, Cheryl Sullivan, Maxine Majors, Tracy Wade and Tricia McDowell

Los Angeles Region

Paula Bazar Blood Donation Center Naming

In October, Tiffany Circle members and the Los Angeles community honored Tiffany Circle member **Paula Bazar-Sandling** at the newly renamed Paula Bazar Blood Donation Center in Woodland Hills, California, recognizing her lifelong dedication to helping others.

During the ceremony, **Susan Baker**, president and CEO of The Betty Bazar Foundation and Chair of the Los Angeles Tiffany Circle, surprised attendees by announcing a transformative \$2.7 million gift to fully fund the modernization of the American Red Cross Betty Bazar Blood

Services Center in Pomona, named in 2024 after Paula's mother and late Tiffany Circle member Betty Bazar. Building on that momentum, Paula followed with the announcement of a second gift of \$570,000 to purchase essential new equipment, including high-speed centrifuges, specialized plasma freezers, an automated blood banking lab and a 3D mapping system, to enhance production efficiency and safety. Together, the gifts totaling \$3.27 million will ensure the Pomona center remains one of the most advanced and impactful blood manufacturing facilities for the American Red Cross.



Pictured left to right: Tiffany Circle members Claudia Kotchka, Holly Baker, Susan Baker, Cheryl Moersen, Paula Bazar-Sandling, Verna Grayce Chao, Michael Sandling, Moreen Pushkin, Trish Nevonen, Posie Carpenter, Josie Tong and Beverly Marksbury

Los Angeles Tiffany Circle Brings Holiday Joy and Cheer to Military Families

Los Angeles Tiffany Circle members took part in Operation Holiday Cheer this past November, supporting the deployed site of Qatar with a total service population of 10,000 service members. Tiffany Circle members and other Service to the Armed Forces volunteers gathered at the Downtown Los Angeles headquarters to assemble care packages, write heartfelt holiday cards and share moments of service and camaraderie. Collectively, 93 boxes were packed — nearly doubling last year's total boxes! This commendable effort helped bring joy and comfort to deployed service members, a powerful reminder of the impact we can make when we unite for a common cause.

In December, Tiffany Circle members joined members of the Service to the Armed Forces team for the annual Holiday Bedside Visits at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. Their presence and heartfelt gestures brought comfort and joy to veterans during the holiday season — a beautiful reminder of the power of passion and connection. These simple yet meaningful gestures remind veterans that their service is remembered and appreciated, turning what could be a difficult time of year into one filled with connection, dignity and holiday spirit.



LEFT PHOTO (Pictured from left to right): Amanda Casalegno; Tiffany Circle members Trish Nevenon, Cisca Tan, Suzanne Esnard, Annette O'Neal, Posie Carpenter, Lisa Yang, Traci Wesolik, Lauren Tran and Patti Hartmann

RIGHT PHOTO (Pictured from left to right): Service to the Armed Forces Volunteer Supawan Lowe, Tiffany Circle members Janet Lang, Mark Amparan, Suzanne Esnard, Karla Greene, Thomas and Aleksander Krutainis, Betsy Amparan, Amanda Casalegno (Regional Philanthropy Officer)

Eastern New York Region

Upstate New York Celebrates Successful Blood Drive

The Tiffany Circle of Eastern New York hosted holiday blood drives and an inspiring Power of Women luncheon this winter, bringing together

dedicated members and supporters committed to saving lives. The holiday blood drives collected over 60 units of blood, helping ensure they were available during a critical season. The luncheon celebrated the group's connection, philanthropy and the impact of women leaders.



Left to right: Tiffany Circle members Mallory Massry, Julie Knox, Rose Miller, Ellie Alexander and Amanda Goyer gathered to host Tiffany Holiday Blood Drives

Western New York Region

Western New York Tiffany Circle Chapter Co-Chairs Support New Blood Donation Center

Western New York Tiffany Circle Chapter Co-Chairs **Mary O'Malley-Trumble** and **Dawn Santiago-Marullo** celebrated their sponsorship of Health History Room #1 at the Western New York Region's Blood Donation Center in Fairport, New York, during our Ribbon Cutting Celebration last fall. Their generous combined \$25,000 gift supports the comfortable and private space where blood donors, prior to their procedure, complete a free health screening to ensure each donor is healthy enough to donate blood.



Western New York Chapter Tiffany Circle Co-Chairs Mary O'Malley-Trumble and Dawn Santiago-Marullo cut the Tiffany Circle blue ribbon on Health History Room #1 at Fairport Blood Donation Center

Wisconsin Region

Wisconsin Tiffany Circle Gathers for an Evening of Connection

The Wisconsin Region of the Tiffany Circle gathered last fall for a warm and memorable dinner at Eldr + Rime, bringing together 10 members for an evening of connection, conversation and community. The event

provided a meaningful opportunity to strengthen friendships, welcome new faces and celebrate a shared commitment to giving back. Filled with laughter, great food and inspiring stories, the evening served as a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together with purpose.



Left to right: Nicole Gulatz, Chief Development Officer Melinda Lanham, Mary Voelker, Ursula Flores and Sara Horein

SAVE THE DATE: NASHVILLE AREA TIFFANY CIRCLE — FALL LUNCHEON

You're warmly invited to join us in Nashville for the Tennessee Region's annual Fall Luncheon on September 10, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Richland Country Club.

We are delighted to welcome Kate Forbes, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as our special guest. Kate is a humanitarian leader with more than 40 years of experience across the Red Cross Movement, supporting lifesaving work locally, nationally, and around the world.

While all Tiffany Circle members are welcome, space is limited. Please contact our Tiffany Circle Liaison, Leigh Elliott (leigh.elliott@redcross.org), to express your interest in attending and receive additional details.



AMERICAN AIRLINES AND THE RED CROSS — TURNING CARE INTO ACTION FOR 40 YEARS

American Airlines and their customers make the Red Cross mission possible by helping us provide volunteers, supplies and hope where they're needed urgently. To celebrate our 40th year of partnership, American Airlines will award 10 AAdvantage[®] bonus miles* for every \$1 you give. [**Donate today. Together, we can turn care into action.**](#)

*Only open to AAdvantage® program members. Learn more [here](#).
A minimum donation of \$25 is required to receive miles.

NOMINATE A TIFFANY CIRCLE MEMBER TO BE SPOTLIGHTED!

Each month, we spotlight Tiffany Circle members through stories featured on our website and the National American Red Cross social channels. These stories highlight the many ways members support the Red Cross mission and what inspires their continued engagement. Nominate yourself or a fellow Tiffany Circle member [using this form](#), and our team will follow up to learn more.



[Subscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [View in Browser](#)

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.

[Unsubscribe from American Red Cross emails](#) if you no longer wish to receive them. 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.

© <%=formatDate(new Date(), "%4Y") %> **American Red Cross** | 431 18th Street NW Washington DC 20006

Donate by phone: 1-800-HELP NOW (1-800-435-7669) | [Donate by Mail](#)



[Help people](#) affected by disasters big and small.



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.