



The Torch



American Red Cross
Tiffany Circle

SPRING 2025 EDITION — CO-CHAIR LETTER

Dear Tiffany Circle members,

As we near the end of our [two-year strategic plan](#) (FY24–FY25), our collective group of women should feel incredibly proud of our extraordinary impact. As of April 2025, we have:

- **Grown** to over **1,350 members** strong.
- Fueled the **American Red Cross mission**, collectively donating more than **\$41 million** and influencing an additional **\$30 million** in philanthropic investments.
- **Served our mission**, recording over **31,000 volunteer hours** in Volunteer Connection.

Thank you for your incredible and unwavering commitments to realize this collective impact.

We are thrilled that we will once again come together for the [Tiffany Circle Summit on September 11–13 in Washington, D.C.](#) This Summit will provide the opportunity to deepen your engagement with the Red Cross and forge lasting connections within our extraordinary Tiffany Circle network. In addition to making plans to attend, we ask that you extend this unique opportunity to the women who inspire *you*. Please consider inviting your family, friends and colleagues to experience the transformative power of women's engagement, leadership and philanthropy with the Red Cross. Your invitation could be the catalyst that empowers us to further strengthen the ability of the Red Cross to meet some of the most pressing humanitarian needs within our communities. Please see below for details.

While we celebrate the Tiffany Circle accomplishments and eagerly await

connecting at the Summit, recent disasters such as the devastating wildfires in California, plus the spring storms and floods in the South and Midwest, remind us *why* we remain steadfast in our efforts to prevent and alleviate human suffering. As disasters continue to devastate communities across the U.S., we know the Red Cross is working around the clock to deliver help and hope to all those affected.

In Service,



Rowena Cuffe

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BONNIE MCELVEEN HUNTER RECEIVES THE INAUGURAL BONNIE MCELVEEN HUNTER GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD AT THE 64TH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS BALL

Celebrating her 20 years of extraordinary leadership as Chairman of the American Red Cross Board of Governors, Bonnie McElveen Hunter was honored with the first **Bonnie McElveen Hunter Global**

Humanitarian Award at the historic and prestigious International Red Cross Ball in Palm Beach, Florida, on January 10. Created by the Tiffany Circle International Council, this award is presented to a Tiffany Circle member who exemplifies the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and who represents a spirit of dedicated global leadership, volunteerism and community.

Photo of Gail McGovern, Bonnie McElveen Hunter; and Elaine Lyerly

Gail McGovern, Chairman, American Red Cross; Ambassador Bonnie McElveen Hunter; and Elaine Lyerly, Founder, Tiffany Circle International Council

Bonnie is the first woman to serve as Chairman since American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, and her impact during her tenure is beyond measure, from leading governance reforms to co-founding the Tiffany Circle and empowering its global leadership, as well as re-engaging the organization in international relief work around the globe. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we celebrate her visionary leadership, which is a source of inspiration to all of us.

Filled with gratefulness, Ambassador Bonnie McElveen Hunter shared, "The Red Cross was founded by women and enjoyed women's leadership. Nothing better exemplifies that leadership than the 'sisterhood' of Tiffany Circle. We celebrate our belief in each other, the power of personal courage, the nobility and necessity of service, and the sanctity of family. It has been my privilege for the last 20 years to be Chairman of the American Red Cross, and while our paths may now diverge, this is not a final farewell but a new chapter in our journey together as I proudly carry you in my heart forever."

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

South Florida Region

The 64th International Red Cross Ball Ushers in Palm Beach's Social Season With Unprecedented Success

The Palm Beach & Treasure Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross celebrated the monumental success of the 64th International Red Cross Ball on Friday, January 10, at The Breakers Palm Beach. The iconic event welcomed more than 480 distinguished guests, including ambassadors and dignitaries from around the world, and raised a record-breaking \$2.45 million to support disaster relief efforts across the United States.

For the third consecutive year, Charles and **Amanda Schumacher** chaired the prestigious event. Their dedication to the Red Cross mission is a testament to their spirit of generosity and compassion.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding success of the 64th International Red Cross Ball, which supports the vital humanitarian

mission of the American Red Cross,” said Amanda Schumacher. “Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters and attendees, we have raised essential funds to deliver help and hope to families facing unimaginable disasters in our community and across the country.”

Guests enjoyed an elegant evening featuring dinner, dancing and the unique opportunity to meet more than a dozen international ambassadors representing countries, including Albania, Austria, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Jamaica, Kosovo, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova and Thailand.



LEFT PHOTO (left to right): Tiffany Circle members Keri McInnis, Jennifer Wolcott, Courtney Fitzgerald, Teresa Nacarato, Rowena Dolor Cuffe, Lynn Scarola, Lisa Williams, Katy Ellis. **RIGHT PHOTO** (left to right): Tiffany Circle members Ginger Merkel, Julie Detherage, Elaine Lyerly and Laurie Laidlaw Deacon

Eastern New York Region

Inaugural Upstate New York Event Ignites Growth and Momentum

In November 2024, Northeastern New York Board Chair and the chapter’s founding Tiffany Circle Chair, **Rose Miller**, hosted the Circle’s inaugural event with over 25 attendees. All five Upstate Tiffany Circle members met for the first time, while Massachusetts member, **Karen Teller**, delivered an inspiring keynote address. The event sparked significant interest, leading to two new members. The group looks forward to building on this momentum through recruitment, philanthropy and impactful community projects throughout 2025.



Tiffany Circle members pictured left to right: Rita Reicher, Julie Knox, Amanda Goyer, Ellie Alexander and Chair Rose Miller

Georgia Region

Baby Bundles for Vets with a Twist

The Tiffany Circle Georgia Region put a new twist on an existing concept: assembling baby bundles for expectant service members by engaging Tiffany Circle members' children and their friends. The youth volunteers earned community service hours for collecting and assembling items, while their moms — many of whom were not Tiffany Circle members — wrote thank-you notes to service members and learned more about the Tiffany Circle. This successful event had myriad positive outcomes, including the ability to engage members' children, new member recruitment and the delivery of the kits to local VA facilities for distribution to new parents as part of our Service to the Armed Forces program.



High school students assembled more than 100 kits with newborn items for expectant veterans, which included handwritten thank-you notes. Some of the 30 attendees show off baby onesies that were included in the Baby Bundles.

Northern California Coastal Region

Red Cross Gala Celebrated 30 Years in March 2025

The Northern California Coastal Region is proud to announce its 30th Anniversary Red Cross Gala raised more than \$1.3 million to support the organization's mission. This signature fundraising event, themed "A Pillar of Hope and Resilience," was held on Saturday, March 22, and co-chaired by Tiffany Circle members **Elizabeth J. Folger** and **Kenzie Ferguson**. More than 350 guests from the Bay Area gathered to

celebrate this milestone, recognize this year's humanitarian honorees and contribute to the Red Cross mission.

The evening opened with a [moving retrospective video](#) honoring the organization's 140-year history and celebrating 30 years of the Red Cross Gala in San Francisco. [Later in the program, a mission video](#)

highlighted the story of a Red Cross volunteer and a wildfire survivor — both impacted by the 2017 Tubbs Fire — who embarked on their Red Cross journeys following the disaster. Inspired by this heartfelt narrative, guests generously donated to support the organization's lifesaving programs and services.

New Tiffany Circle member **Amy Marks Dornbusch** took her humanitarian spirit a step further by donating blood on her way to the Gala! Looking ready to hit the red carpet, Amy visited the Red Cross Blood Donation Center in San Francisco and became a proud first-time — and glamorous — blood donor! From there, she joined in the festivities at the Gala and helped raise support for the Red Cross mission.



Gala Co-Chairs and Tiffany Circle members
Kenzie Ferguson and Elizabeth J. Folger



LEFT PHOTO: Tiffany Circle member Amy Marks Dornbusch celebrating her first blood donation before attending the 30th Anniversary Red Cross Gala. **RIGHT PHOTO** (*pictured left to right*): Northern California Coastal Region Gala Visionary Honorees Linda Dotson, Maja Kristin, Deane Malott, Jill Malott and Anna Bard with President of Humanitarian Services Trevor Rikken.

Puerto Rico Region

Puerto Rico Tiffany Circle Members Welcome New Members

In February, the Puerto Rico Tiffany Circle hosted its first event of the

year, welcoming new members **Dr. Maruja Santiago** and **Dr. Germaine Rodríguez**, who received their Tiffany Circle bracelets and charms. Also, **Dr. Anna Di Marco**, Chairwoman, presented the commemorative charms to members who renewed their commitment. During the event, Lee Vanessa Feliciano, Regional Executive, shared insights on the impact of recent efforts in the Region and highlighted upcoming events.



LEFT PHOTO: *(Tiffany Circle members pictured left to right):* Dr. Anna Di Marco, Dr. Maruja Santiago, Dr. Germaine Rodríguez and Janet Díaz Salicruct, Esq. **RIGHT PHOTO:** *(Tiffany Circle members pictured left to right):* Glendaliz Acevedo, Dr. Germaine Rodríguez, Dr. Maruja Santiago, Dr. Marelli Colón Emeric, Janet Díaz Salicruct, Esq., Dr. Anna Di Marco, Lissette Rodríguez, Iliá M. Morales Toledo, Dr. Maryrose Concepción and Lilian Díaz.

Tennessee Region

Tennessee Tiffany Circle Fall Luncheon

The Nashville Area Tiffany Circle's annual Fall Luncheon was held September 17 at Belle Meade Country Club. **Denice Johnson** and **Barbara Turner** graciously hosted this year's event. Tiffany Circle Co-Founder **Melanie Sabelhaus** was the special guest.

This year's event was one of the largest ever, with 94 guests in attendance. Special Guest speaker Melanie Sabelhaus entertained us with humor and stories from her life, including her relationship with **Bonnie McElveen Hunter** and Bonnie's true and lasting impact as recently retired Chairman of the American Red Cross Board of Governors and Co-Founder of the Tiffany Circle. Melanie shared the history of the Tiffany Circle and the impact of women joining together to support the Red Cross mission and each other.

Torchbearer **Betsy Wills** provided a poignant closing, reminding us of the power of the Tiffany Circle and our commitment to lifting up each other as sisters and friends.



LEFT PHOTO (Top Row): Courtney Fitzgerald, Woo Caroland, Maxine Majors, Laurie Seabury, Wendy Burch. *Second Row:* Joanne Sowell, Kelly Crockett, Leisa Gill, Christine Weller, Dr. Rowena Dolor Cuffe, Barbara Hagood. *Third Row:* Tracy Wade, Marci Houff, Katie Crumbo, Lisa Williams, Courtney Wolcott. *Fourth Row:* Leora Allen, Tricia McDowell, Barbara Turner, Anne Russell, Jennifer Wolcott. *Bottom Row:* Keri McInnis, Janet Bentz, Denise Johnson, Alexis Goines, Mandy Harris, Dr. Divya Shroff, Melanie Sabelhaus, Barbara Bovender, Janice LaGasse, Louise Bryan, Ellen More, Patsy Brown, Betsy Wills, Mary Burd, Kellie Robinson **RIGHT PHOTO** (pictured left to right): Melanie Sabelhaus, Barbara Bovender, Barbara Turner and Denice Johnson.

Minnesota Dakotas Region

Tiffany Circle Supports Our Service to the Armed Forces Partners

At the Minnesota Dakotas Tiffany Circle fall event, members supported

our Service to the Armed Forces partners by building 200 comfort kits containing essential toiletries for men and women veterans to pick up from local events and the VA hospital.

Tiffany Circle member **Carla Paulson** shared her reflections from this mission engagement activity, saying, “Supporting those who have selflessly served our country is a responsibility our Tiffany Circle members hold dear. Working together to assemble these kits is more than providing essentials; it’s a meaningful way to show our gratitude.”



Tiffany Circle members pictured left to right: Susan Viking Kueck, Carla Paulson, Brenda L. Johnson, Carolyn Shell, Lindsey Erickson, Torrey Asp, Christy Leintz, Barbara Piotrowski.

New Blood Donation Center Opens: Proudly Supported by Tiffany Circle

A new Blood Donation Center opened in Blaine, Minnesota, featuring signage “Proudly supported by the Tiffany Circle.” In addition to this exterior signage, there are great Tiffany Circle touch points throughout the center that have already sparked interest from blood donors within the building. In its first month open, the Blood Donation Center exceeded its collections goal by 202%, making a lifesaving impact for people facing medical emergencies and requiring blood products.



Wisconsin Region

Quality Time Spent in Wisconsin Region

The Wisconsin Region Tiffany Circle gathered in Milwaukee in November 2024 to engage with each other in a casual setting. Members traveled from Green Bay and Madison to enjoy an evening together with their Milwaukee Tiffany Circle sisters. This was one of the first planned social

events from the region's newly formed steering committee. There were 12 attendees, including a member from Illinois, who enjoyed reuniting with friends from past national events.



Pictured left to right: Tiffany Circle members Ursula Flores, Patty Flowers and Asra Sasmaz

Central & Southern Ohio Region

Greater Columbus Chapter Women in Philanthropy Event

The Greater Columbus Chapter Tiffany Circle hosted a Women in Philanthropy — Evening of Fellowship and Conversation event in March that was attended by 14 women! In addition to getting to know each other, members shared the Tiffany Circle mission and the impact of women as philanthropists in their community and beyond. For several of the women, it was their first exposure to the Tiffany Circle for several of the women. The event generated much excitement



Pictured left to right: Becky Cunningham, Annette Vaughan, Lorena Gerlach, Joyce Guenther, Kathy Flynn, Karen Washbush, Brittany Kirby, Tanica Jeffries, Bobbi Jo Allan, Sarah O'Connor, Kristen Elliott, Sarah Ketty, Ellen Berndt, Patty Hiatt

Massachusetts Region

Boston Marathon: Tiffany Circle Supports Team Red Cross

On Monday, April 21, more than 60 Team Red Cross runners participated in the 129th Annual Boston Marathon, with each runner raising a minimum of \$11,500. Tiffany Circle members were part of the more than 300 Red Cross volunteers who supported our team on Marathon Monday. They registered all the runners and provided a welcoming

atmosphere that helped participants and their families celebrate their amazing accomplishments.



South Florida's Teresa Gonzalez Earns Her 6th Star with Team Red Cross at the 2024 Boston Marathon

National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region

National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region Tiffany Circle Honors Women Who Served

On Friday, March 7, the National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region Tiffany Circle held the Distinguished Woman Warrior Award Luncheon. During this event, the Honorable Tanya J. Bradsher, LTC (Ret.), U.S. Army, was honored with the Distinguished Woman Warrior Award. Nearly 100 service women, Red Cross supporters, volunteers, and Tiffany Circle prospects and members attended the luncheon.



LEFT PHOTO (*left to right*): Members of the National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region attend the Distinguished Woman Warrior Award Luncheon. Pictured left to right: Dale Koepenick, Simone Acha, Tammy Moore, Alexis Breau and Linda Mathes. **RIGHT PHOTO** (*left to right*): Tanya J. Bradsher, LTC (Ret) U.S. Army (center), with two of her daughters and Congressman Don Beyer and his wife, Megan Beyer

Greater Pennsylvania Region

Greater Pennsylvania Tiffany Circle Hosts Behind the Pages

The Tiffany Circle of Greater Pennsylvania recently hosted a virtual evening with Jane Healey, the acclaimed author of *"The Beantown Girls."* Attendees were captivated by Healey's insights into her writing process and the historical inspiration behind her novel, which was influenced by the real-life Red Cross Clubmobile Girls and their heroic efforts during World War II. The event fostered a sense of community and appreciation for our mission and the history of women in the Red Cross, leaving everyone inspired.



Author, Jane Healey and *"The Beantown Girls"*



Join members of the American Red Cross Tiffany Circle to celebrate the impact of our collective support and engagement in the organization's lifesaving mission.

When:

September 11–13, 2025

Where:

The Salamander Washington DC and Red Cross Square

Early bird pricing extended through July 1. Register by August 15, 2025.

For more exciting details, visit TiffanyCircle.org/Summit.



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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!

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