



The Torch



American Red Cross
Tiffany Circle

FALL 2024 EDITION — CO-CHAIR LETTER

Dear Tiffany Circle members,

We are excited to share that on June 30, 2024, we successfully closed the first fiscal year of our current [two-year strategic plan](#) (FY24-FY25) with incredible strides, including the following highlights:

- Over 1,275 members strong, we collectively contributed more than \$36 million and influenced an additional \$18 million in donations.
- Members recorded over 45,000 volunteer hours in Volunteer Connection through fiscal year 2024.
- Since our founding in 2007, we have raised over \$230 million in support of the American Red Cross, helping fulfill its lifesaving mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering in the face of emergencies.

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

Looking ahead, we need your help to meet our ambitious goal to grow our membership to 1,350 by the end of fiscal year 2025 (June 30, 2025). The Red Cross has launched a bold initiative to expand the impact of Women in Philanthropy and make the Red Cross a leading charity of choice for all women. We challenge you to consider whom you can introduce to the Red Cross — and to the Tiffany Circle. Engaging more women donors, volunteers and advocates will strengthen the ability of the Red Cross to meet the most urgent needs in our communities.

An updated [Tiffany Circle video](#) and refreshed [Tiffany Circle brochure](#) are now available to share with your networks of women who might be interested in joining us. Both items demonstrate our members' dedication to the mission and extraordinary impact of our members in their local communities, across the country and around the globe.

As we celebrate our collective impact and look forward to the exciting opportunities for growth ahead, we are once again reminded of one of the many reasons we each support the work of the Red Cross in its unique ability to deliver help and hope to all those affected by emergencies, including recent hurricanes Helene and Milton. As these and other disasters continue to devastate communities across the U.S., the Red Cross is working tirelessly to deliver help and hope to all those affected.

In Service,



Rowena Cuffe

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Marilyn T. McClure Demers

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REGION SPOTLIGHTS

Los Angeles Region

Los Angeles Region Tiffany Circle Power of Women Breakfast

This spring, the Los Angeles Region Tiffany Circle held its annual signature Tiffany Circle Power of Women Breakfast to a capacity crowd at the Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles. This year's theme was Women in Sports, and panelists knocked it out of the park!

This event highlighted the importance of inclusivity and empowerment through sports, which align with the Red Cross's commitment to promoting equality and building communities. By addressing barriers, supporting equitable opportunities and advocating for fair compensation, the panel discussion reflected the Red Cross's values of humanitarianism and community support, while fostering a sense of unity and resilience through sports. Thank you to panelists Kathy Schloessman, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission; Nichol Whiteman, CEO of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation; Andia Winslow, activist, athlete, actor and artist; and moderator Jaime Maggio, anchor and reporter, KCBS/KCAL, for bringing it home with a dynamic morning of thought-provoking conversation. ([Flickr](#))



LEFT PHOTO (left to right, top to bottom): Josie Tong, Meloni Hallock, Moreen Pushkin, Posie Carpenter, Claudia Kotchka, Janet Lang, Lisa Yang, Jennifer McCormick, Andia Winslow, Joanne Nowlin, Jaime Maggio, Christy Lowe, Betsy Amparan, Elise Levine. **RIGHT PHOTO (left to right):** Kathy Schloessman, Nichol Whiteman, Andia Winslow, Jaime Maggio.

Illinois Region

Illinois Tiffany Circle Learns Lifesaving Skills

Earlier this year, **Linda Nolan** and **Aileen Blake**, of the Illinois Tiffany Circle Steering Committee, graciously hosted a Hands-Only CPR Training at the Northern Trust Global Conference Center in downtown Chicago.

During the session, attendees learned that more than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur annually outside of hospital settings and that prompt administration of Hands-Only CPR significantly enhances survival rates. More than 30 current and prospective Tiffany Circle members participated in this training, gaining essential lifesaving skills. The event motivated attendees to share their knowledge with their networks and encouraged them to get fully certified.



LEFT PHOTO (left to right, top to bottom): Tiffany Circle members Laura Rock, Bridget Lynch, Claire O'Grady and Red Cross staff member Betsy Ahearne practice hands-only CPR. **RIGHT PHOTO:** Tiffany Circle member Amy Rashkow practices hands-only CPR.

Tennessee Region

Tiffany Circle National Council Spring Meeting in Nashville

The Tiffany Circle National Council (TCNC) annual meeting was held in Nashville in April. Local TCNC members **Dr. Rowena Cuffe**, **Jennifer Wolcott** and Torchbearer **Barbara Bovender** welcomed their fellow TCNC members to Nashville with open arms and a full agenda. The event kicked off with a stunning welcome reception hosted by **Anne Russell** at the law firm Adams and Reese, LLP, followed by a terrific dinner at Halls Chophouse, hosted by **Barbara Bovender**. TCNC members oversee the strategy and direction of the Tiffany Circle and serve as ambassadors for the programs and services of the Red Cross. Thirty-eight TCNC members and Torchbearers attended the three-day event, as well as 11 staff from around the country and four virtual attendees.

TCNC meeting attendees joined 13 Nashville area Tiffany Circle members in a mission moment at the Nashville Chapter office, during which they assembled 300 snack packs for veterans and their families to utilize while visiting the Nashville Veterans Hospital. The snack packs include nonperishable items such as granola bars, apple sauce and beef jerky. In addition, the group assembled 100 Baby Bundles, including essentials like onesies, diapers and pacifiers, for new mothers at Blanchfield Army Hospital at Fort Campbell.



Front row (left to right): Mandy Peebles, Amanda Lepof, Brenda Black, Jessica Slater, Jerri Fatticci, Marissa Blake, Jill Patterson and James Wilcox. **Second row (left to right):** Lauren Barber, Elaine Lyerly, Judy McCormack, Nisha Baxi, Lori O'Flaherty, Barbara Bovender, Rowena Dolor Cuffe, Pam State, Julia Bianchi and Jennifer Wolcott. **Third row (left to right):** Chief Development Officer Anne McKeough, Teri Pollitt, Mary Donovan, Rosemarie Hoover, Jan Tratnik and Susie Trotochaud. **Fourth row (left to right):** Elena Luca, Sherri Odell, Peg Moore, Jennifer McGrath and Tonya Roth. **Top row (left to right):** SECAR Division Vice President Anna Trefethen, Jill Myers, Laura Linger, Nancy Dorrier, Sara Horein, Dale Koepenick and SECAR Division Fundraising Vice President Dee Dixon.

Tiffany Circle Celebrated in Knoxville with Spring Luncheon

The Knoxville area Tiffany Circle held a luncheon at the home of Crissy and Bill Haslam in March 2024. The luncheon was a small affair at Crissy's dining room table, allowing great conversation by all. Tiffany Circle members Crissy Haslam, Christy Phillips and Mary Franklin shared their Red Cross stories and the extraordinary impact of the American Red Cross in our community, the Tennessee region and around the world. We are honored to have two new members — **Ann Bailey** and **Jenny Boyd** — join our East Tennessee Tiffany Circle as a result of the luncheon.



Front row (left to right): Sharon Hudson, Christy Phillips, Melissa Isaacs, Mary Franklin. **Back row (left to right):** Michell Wilkerson, Ann Bailey, Crissy Haslam, Jenny Boyd

Kansas and Missouri Region

Kansas and Missouri Region Tiffany Circle Welcomes Donut Dollies

On a beautiful day in Kansas City, members of the Tiffany Circle and their guests gathered in honor and celebration of the mission of the Red Cross Service to Armed Forces at their Salute to Service event. Hosted at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, guests enjoyed an engaging presentation by Service to the Armed Forces and International Services Program Manager Jill Eaves, who recently returned from a deployment in Poland. Jill shared how the Red Cross supports members of the military, veterans and their families in the Missouri Arkansas region, across the country and around the world.

Women have long been at the center of mission delivery for the Red Cross, dating back to Clara Barton. During the event, participants were treated to a conversation with two trailblazing women who donned the Red Cross emblem and provided a touch of home for service members when they served for a year as “Donut Dollies” in Vietnam. Dorris Heaston and Teri Fisk Hermans shared the incredible stories of their time there and the incredible bond that formed as a result of their service as Red Crossers.



Left to right standing: JoAnn Woody, Tiffany Circle member and Chapter Executive Director; Sherry Forsee; Sandy Castetter Johnson, Tiffany Circle member; Jill Eaves, Program Manager for Service to the Armed Forces and International Services; Georgia Lynch; Diane Johnson, Tiffany Circle Co-Chair; Cappy Powell; Susan Spaulding, Tiffany Circle Co-Chair; Mary Ann Pinkerton; Kay Martin; Nancy Schall; Sherri Odell, member of the Tiffany Circle National Council; Michael Odell; Char DeWitt, Planned Giving Officer
Left to right seated: "Donut Dollies" Teri Fisk Hermans, Dorris Heaston.

Southern California Region

Southern California Tiffany Circle Host Farm to Table Dinner

The Southern California Tiffany Circle held its first Farm to Table Dinner event at Coastal Roots Farm in Encinitas in August 2024. Celebrated Italian chef Francesco Bonsi curated an al fresco dinner and wine pairing using local produce from the farm and wines from local Southern California vendors. Tiffany Circle sisters, their guests, board members, philanthropists and leaders from the region gathered to foster community and learn more about the Tiffany Circle and the Red Cross.

The evening program educated 60 attendees about the mission of the Red Cross and the impact of the Tiffany Circle. The keynote speaker was the Mayor of Encinitas, Tony Kranz, who spoke about the importance of philanthropy in communities such as Encinitas and how the American Red Cross has impacted Encinitas. Laura Nguyen, Orange County Board Member, presented the Mission Moment, sharing her family's reunification story when her family migrated from Vietnam.

Thanks to our Tiffany Circle planning committee, including **Rosy Roccaforte, Paula Downey, Sharmin Jaffer** and **Kelly Levine**, who made this event possible. Their efforts raised \$20,000 for the Red Cross mission and cultivated many new supporters!



Front row standing (left to right): Katie Do, Sharmin Jaffer, Paula Downey. **Front row sitting (left to right):** Laura Nguyen, Rosy Roccaforte, Pervin Edmunds. **Back row (left to right):** Kelly Levine, Lori Rudin, Pamela Farr, Meredith Aston.

The Park Fire: A Community United in Crisis

The Park Fire began on July 24, 2024, near Chico, California. High wind

gusts fueled the explosive growth of the fire, which grew to become the fourth largest in the state's history. Mandatory evacuations were ordered for tens of thousands of residents in Butte, Shasta and Tehama counties, prompting the rapid establishment of Red Cross — and county-managed shelters. Board member and Tiffany Circle member **Michelle DeMeyer** proudly served at a local shelter, delivering hope to the community where she was born and raised.



Michelle DeMeyer visiting a Park Fire evacuation shelter at the Neighborhood Church in Chico, California. Michelle is a proud member of our Sierra-Delta Chapter Board of Directors and a member of the American Red Cross Tiffany Circle.

Arizona New Mexico Region

Special Guest Joins the Arizona/New Mexico Tiffany Circle Book Club Discussion

This spring, Tiffany Circle members were delighted to participate in their inaugural book club discussion, featuring the captivating memoir *Good Night, Irene*. The program was held at the chapter office in Phoenix, Arizona, and offered an engaging exploration of this remarkable story, providing members with valuable insights into the experiences of those dedicated to service.

A special highlight of the event was special guest speaker, Paige Rockett, a Donut Dolly for the Red Cross. Paige shared her firsthand experiences and offered a profound perspective on her time serving with the Red Cross.



Pictured (left to right): Riley Swanson, Amy Slagle, Kathy Bell, Pat Farmer, Barbara Plotrowski, Paige Rockett, Brenda Johnson, Dr. Amalia DeComas, Beth Anderson, Helene Flaxbeard

Wisconsin Region

Wisconsin Region Tiffany Circle Inspires Volunteer Engagement at

Summer Luncheon

In August, the Wisconsin Region Tiffany Circle gathered in Milwaukee for its annual luncheon. This impactful event was hosted by members **Cristy Garcia-Thomas** and **Sue Shimoyama-See**. Over 30 attendees joined a mission-packed program, which featured a panel discussion led by three women who have deployed to disasters. The panel included Tiffany Circle members **Jane Nesbitt** and **Sara Horein**. The program also featured Wisconsin Service to the Armed Forces activities and member recognition.



LEFT PHOTO: Front Row (left to right): Tiffany Circle members Sue Shimoyama-See, Sara Horein, Jane Nesbitt. **Back row (left to right):** Patricia Ackerman, Ursula Flores, Asra Sasmaz, Mary Voelker, Joyce Wuetrich, Cristy Garcia-Thomas, Gail Yabuki, Patty Flowers. **RIGHT PHOTO (left to right):** Disaster Action Team panelists: Jenny Legaspi, Sara Horein and Jane Nesbitt

Indiana Region

Dr. Condoleezza Rice Speaks at Indiana Economic Club Luncheon

Pictured (left to right): Allison Barber, Kris Harper, Indiana Region CEO Terry Stigdon, Ginger Merkel, Condoleezza Rice, Jaime Medley, Amy Robbins, Julie Detherage, Peggy Lieffring.



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Northern California Coastal Region

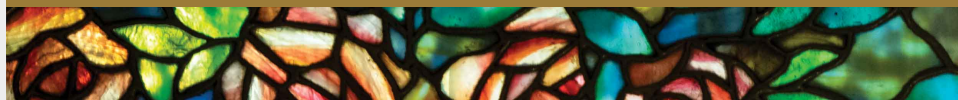
The Red Cross Gala Celebrates 30 Years in March 2025

The Red Cross Gala is an annual volunteer-led, black-tie benefit that funds Red Cross preparedness, response and recovery programs in the Bay Area. Celebrating its 30th anniversary on March 22 at 6 p.m., the 2025 event promises to be a special evening honoring the past and looking to the future from San Francisco's newest venue, The Conservatory at One Sansome. Co-chaired by Tiffany Circle members Kenzie Ferguson and Elizabeth J. Folger, the Red Cross Gala is the premier fundraising event for the Northern California Coastal Region and a philanthropic highlight for San Francisco society.

Learn more at redcross.org/redcrossgalasf.



LEFT PHOTO: Tiffany Circle member Ingrid Swenson raises her paddle during the Fund the Mission segment of the 2023 Red Cross Gala. **RIGHT PHOTO:** During the 2024 event, the Red Cross honored the Regional Volunteer Blood Donor Committee for its efforts to encourage blood and platelet donation. **Left to right:** Justin Mueller, Regional Donor Services Executive; Nichole Jordan, Tiffany Circle member and Bay Area board member; Jasper Smith, platelet donor and donor advocate; Michael Gregory, Bay Area board member; Kathryn Holmes, Tiffany Circle member; and Hanna Malak, Regional CEO.



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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 life-saving 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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