

Lifesaving Awards



American Red Cross
Training Services

NOMINATE NOW

Inspiring Stories by Region

“She Gaspd and Came Back”: Lifesaving Pharmacist Honored in the Red Cross Northern Ohio Region

When a fellow employee ran into the pharmacy shouting that someone had collapsed at the North Olmstead Discount Drug Mart, Matt Kirby ran to the deli section to assess the scene. Using lifesaving skills he learned in a Red Cross course for his job, he began CPR on the woman, who was not breathing and had no pulse. On his 22nd chest compression, the customer was revived. She was transported to a hospital and recovered to celebrate her 50th wedding anniversary just one week later. For his actions, Matt was awarded the Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders on March 28, 2022 and gained some new grandparents. “They have adopted me into their family, but the reward was that she’s okay,” he said. Read the full story with links to local coverage [here](#).



Former Lifeguard from the Red Cross Northern Ohio Region Rescues Vacationing Mother and Son

While on vacation in North Carolina, college student Travis Shrout noticed a mother and son in seeming distress far from shore. The former lifeguard handed off his boogie board to the mother then swam after her young son. Treading water amidst the waves and rip current, all while keeping the duo calm, Travis concocted a plan. He got them close enough to shore to secure another floatation device, then worked with others to tow them past the current to safety. The entire scene was captured on incredible drone footage. "I felt that anyone else in my situation would have done the same thing," said Travis. He was honored March 3, 2022 with the Certificate of Merit from the National Lifesaving Awards Program and an Acts of Courage Award from the Northern Ohio region. [Watch](#) his amazing story and listen to the [podcast](#).



Little Lifesaver Saves Dad from Choking in the Red Cross Central Florida Region

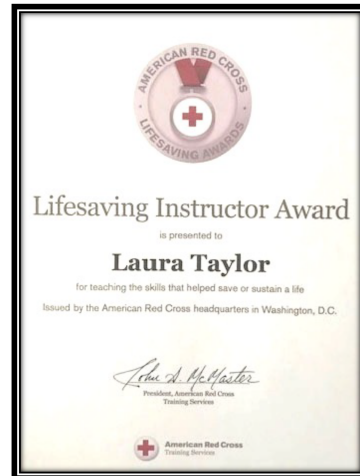
Paramedic Tabitha Parker taught her daughter, Peyton, what to do if someone was choking on food, never expecting that the 8-year-old girl would use it to save her dad's life. But that's exactly what happened this past January when Peyton's father began choking on a sandwich. She wrapped her arms around her dad and gave him two abdominal thrusts. The sandwich cleared and before long the family was back to playing video games. No other adults were home that day since Tabitha was at work, making Peyton's actions even more impressive. Last month, she was awarded the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action by the Red Cross, recognized by the chapter in this [Facebook post](#).



Instructor Spotlight

Laura Taylor

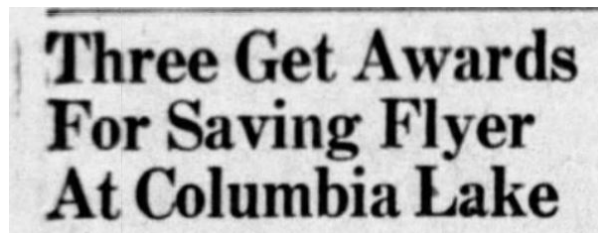
Each month we highlight Instructors who have taught students who have then used their lifesaving skills to save or sustain a life. This eNewsletter's first story, "She Gaspd and Came Back to Life," features Matt Kirby, a pharmacist who used the skills taught to him by Laura Taylor to save a customer who collapsed at the pharmacy where he worked. Laura will be presented with the Lifesaving Instructor Award for her role teaching the Adult and Child CPR/AED course where Matt learned to perform CPR. Read the full story with links to local coverage [here](#).



Lifesaving Awards Vault

From the vault of the Hartford Courant, November 28, 1948

Direct from the newspaper's vault: A light seaplane piloted by Paul F. Jarvis, 20, plunged into Columbia Lake in Connecticut on August 2, 1948. Guy Beck, a 20-year old college student, and George Marsh dove into the water to release Jarvis from the cockpit, where he was trapped, unconscious. Although bystanders thought Jarvis was dead, B. Brainard Bell, a 27-year old Red Cross First Aid instructor, insisted on starting CPR. Jarvis regained consciousness and was discharged from the hospital two weeks after the crash. For their lifesaving actions, all three men received the Certificate of Merit. It was Bell's second recognition that year from the Red Cross, having received a Certificate of Appreciation and the Red Cross Service Medal earlier for contributing more than 500 hours of volunteer work.





Nominate.

Recognize.

Inspire.

Saving Lives Starts Here

If you or someone you know has used **skills** and **knowledge** learned in an American Red Cross Training Services course to help save or sustain the life of another individual, visit [LifesavingAwards.org](https://lifesavingawards.org) to nominate them.

Want to see if you have a local hero in your area? If you have access to the Red Cross Volunteer Portal, log on to see our [interactive map](#).

This month's story about 8-year old Peyton Parker demonstrates that it's never too early to learn basic lifesaving skills. Why not sign up the entire family for First Aid/CPR/AED training? Find a location near you on our [course finder page](#).
