# saving Awards



NOMINATE NOW

# Inspiring Stories by Region

#### **Paraprofessional Helps Two Choking** Students in the Illinois Region

Walsh Elementary School was grateful to have special education paraprofessional Jen Kerrigan watching its kindergarten class this past January. In a rush to finish

eating a bagel, one small child started choking on it. Rushing to his side, Jen asked if he was okay, to

someone who is choking, but it took several back blows and at least three abdominal thrusts before the bagel dislodged. This is the second time that Jen has saved a young child from choking, and in a surprise, both boys were present when Red Cross Executive Director Brian McDaniel awarded Jen the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action. Jen's reaction is captured in this blog post and video from the Red Cross of Illinois region.

which he shook his head "no." She immediately started first aid for

### Two Lives in One Day in the Kansas-Oklahoma Region

Sixth Grader Saves

It was a normal day at school for sixth-grader Davyon Johnson until he spotted one of his classmates choking on a bottle cap. The 11-year-old Muskogee Academy student jumped into action, pressing on the other boy's stomach until the cap popped up and out. Amazingly, on that same day, Davyon also helped pull a



awarded the Red Cross Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action. "His actions embody the values and mission of the Red Cross," said Alice Townsend, Red Cross regional CEO for Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma, who presented the award to Davyon in April. Take a moment to watch this inspiring Facebook video of Davyon telling his story.

## **Texas Region** When fourth grader Silas

A Friend to the Rescue

Timmer saw his friend choking on a piece of candy during recess this past January, he recognized the signs and moved in to assist, performing abdominal thrusts to dislodge the candy from his friend's airway. Said Marty McKellips, CEO of the Red Cross Central & South Texas Region, "The



posts from the Red Cross Central Texas chapter. Instructor Spotlight

life. The award was commemorated in these Facebook and Instagram

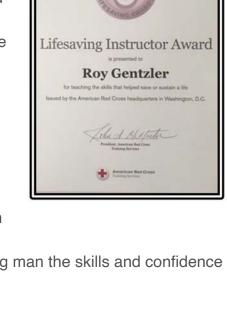
#### have taught students who have then used their lifesaving skills to save or sustain a life. This month, in keeping with our theme

of those who take action when

Roy Gentzler

recognizing someone who is choking, we recognize Roy Gentzler, who taught a student CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers. On October 2, 2021, one of Roy's students performed abdominal thrusts to help save the life of a fellow high schooler who was choking at Lyndon Diner in York, Pennsylvania. We applaud Roy for his instruction that gave this young man the skills and confidence to act when moments mattered.

Each month we highlight Instructors who



Lifesaving Awards Vault

#### The front page of this newspaper lauded the quick thinking of three police officers who saved a 17-month-old boy who was choking on a roll. The

From the vault of the

**Times Recorder** 

March 22, 1958

(Zanesville, Ohio),

restaurant to police

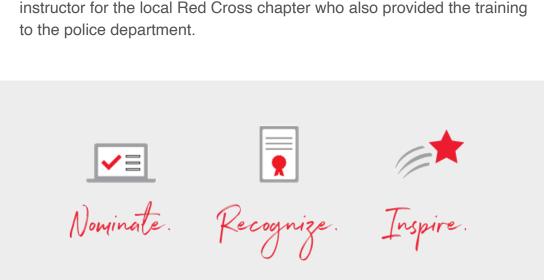
frightened mother ran from the



Policemen Get Merit Awards

Three Honored For Saving

Life Of Boy



# **Saving Lives Starts Here**

If you or someone you know has used skills and knowledge learned in a Red Cross Training Services course to help save or sustain the life of another individual, visit LifesavingAwards.org to nominate them.

account to the Red Cross Volunteer Connection portal to see our interactive map.

Want to see if you have a local hero in your area? Log on or create an

Get Inspired! More than 4.6 million people are trained in Red Cross programs every year. That's millions of potential lifesavers who have confidence to take immediate action when moments matter, as it does in choking. All Red Cross Lifeguarding, First Aid and CPR/AED certification courses teach the skills needed to help someone who is choking. Help make communities safer with Red Cross training!