

# Lifesaving Awards



**American Red Cross**  
Training Services

**NOMINATE NOW**

## Inspiring Stories by Region

### Heroic Shopper Provides CPR to Toddler in Kansas-Oklahoma Region

A newspaper story called Eric Keller “an accidental hero” for being in the right place at the right time. Keller was in the back of a Walmart when a 23-month-old toddler suffered a life-threatening seizure and went into cardiac arrest. Keller used CPR to save the little girl’s life and was awarded the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action by the Red Cross. See the charming photos of Keller and the two-year-old whose life he saved on the chapter’s [LinkedIn page](#) and read about the amazing aftermath, including Keller’s volunteer work, in the [news story](#).



L to R: Eric Keller, Lacy Rodriguez and Nova Gomez

### Four Conference-Goers Jump In To Save a Life at Trade Show in New Jersey Region

Raymond Rios was attending the Tri-state American Camping Association Conference last year when he collapsed from cardiac arrest. Fortunately, Red Cross Training Providers Dave Kotz (Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders) and Dan Castagna (Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders) responded to the commotion, assessing the situation and starting CPR. Red Cross employee Gwen McNamara (Certificate of Merit) also assisted with care and ensured the scene was safe and clear, while conference vendor Mike Kirschner (Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action), jumped in to aid with chest compressions. Want to hear more? Read the compelling details in the [news story](#) and hear about the remarkable save from the victim himself in this captivating [video](#).



L to R: Gwen McNamara, Cheryl Rios, Raymond Rios, New Jersey Region CEO Rosie Taravella, David Kotz, Daniel Castagna

### Lifeguard Instructor Teaches Others, Then Performs Skills on Choking Victim in Arizona-New Mexico Region

Just three weeks after teaching a class on lifesaving techniques, Bailey McElwain, who is both a lifeguard and a lifeguard Instructor, put those techniques into action when she spotted someone choking in a restaurant. “My friends say I didn’t hesitate once,” before performing abdominal thrusts and back blows, dislodging the object and thereby saving the victim.. Lake Havasu City Mayor Cal Sheehy applauded McElwain during the Certificate of Merit presentation, and you won’t want to miss what he and McElwain’s Instructor had to say in the [blog post](#).



L to R: Bailey McElwain, Lake Havasu City Mayor Cal Sheehy, Instructor Swan Cooke

## Instructor Spotlight

### Swan Cooke

Each month we highlight Instructors whose student(s) used their lifesaving training to save or sustain a life. This month we recognize Lifeguard Instructor and Instructor Trainer Swan Cooke, whose student Bailey McElwain was profiled above in a story from the Arizona and New Mexico region. McElwain was taught by Cooke in a Lifeguarding Instructor course. Said Cooke, “Our Lake Havasu City American Red Cross trained lifeguards represent the community both on and off the job. It came as no surprise to find that they responded to an emergency without hesitation. I am proud of all of them and personally congratulate Bailey on this distinguished award.”



## Lifesaving Awards Vault

### From the vault of the Memphis Press-Scimitar (Memphis, Tennessee), June 5, 1979

Murphy Hanley, 14, was eating lunch at a Red Cross camp cafeteria when he choked and stopped breathing. Michael Wamble, 18 and a Red Cross volunteer, jumped in with techniques he’d learned in class to help save Murphy’s life. For his actions, Wamble was awarded the Lifesaving Award at the Memphis chapter’s annual recognition dinner, which Hanley also attended. Wamble began volunteering with the Red Cross as a swim instructor before serving as vice president of its Youth Council and working with Disaster Services. “Red Cross has helped me mature as an individual and taught me respect for others,” said Wamble. “It gives me a warm feeling to know I help others.”



A HANDY MAN TO HAVE AROUND  
Murphy Hanley, 14, is congratulated Michael Wamble on the Red Cross Lifesaving Award Wamble won for saving Hanley's life.



*Nominate.*



*Recognize.*

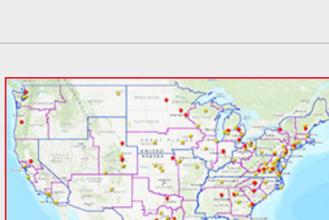


*Inspire.*

### 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.

Want to see if you have a local hero in your area? Take a look at our [map](#).



### Get Inspired!

Accidents and emergencies can happen anytime at home, in the workplace or in the community. As we saw during a recent National Football League game, every second counts when sudden cardiac arrest occurs, and it’s critical to know what to do in any type of emergency. The Red Cross recommends lifesaving training in First Aid, CPR and how to use an AED for everyone. It takes only a few hours and can give you the skills and confidence to act when moments matter. You could help save a life.