

Lifesaving Awards



American Red Cross
Training Services

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Inspiring Stories by Region

State Trooper Earns Honors in South Carolina Region

This month, the Red Cross of South Carolina proudly presented Master State Trooper David Jones with the highest honor bestowed by the American Red Cross: the National Lifesaving Award Certificate of Merit. Last May,



L to R: Colonel Christopher N. Williamson, South Carolina Highway Patrol (SCHP); Master Trooper David Jones, SCHP; Rod Tolbert, CEO, American Red Cross of South Carolina; Rebecca Jordan, Executive Director, Central Chapter, Red Cross of South Carolina

Jones heard a neighbor's child screaming that her brother was dead. Jones ran outside and saw the mother retrieving her two-year-old from the pool. She handed the little boy to Jones, who began delivering back blows and rescue breaths. As a result, the child began coughing up water and fluttering his eyelashes before EMS arrived. Jones states, "Going forward, it's a personal mission that all my neighbors have training because this could happen to anybody." Interested in learning more?

[Read](#) the story and [watch](#) the ceremony via video.

Off-duty Firefighters in Michigan Region Come to the Rescue

When Grand Blanc Township firefighters Adam Frank, Lyle Knopf and Dave Bechtel went on a weekend snowmobiling trip last February, they didn't anticipate putting their



L to R: Kent Maricle, deputy fire chief; Ken Marks, American Red Cross and AmeriCorps volunteer; Becky Gaskin, executive director of the East Central Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross Michigan Region; lifesaving award recipients and Grand Blanc Township firefighters David Bechtel Jr., Adam Frank and Lyle Knopf; Robert Burdette, fire chief; and Tamisha Naylor, American Red Cross and AmeriCorps volunteer

lifesaving skills into action. "We were getting ready to go out for the day and one of the neighbors across from the cabin where we were staying alerted us that there were several people in the cabin not breathing," said Frank. Frank, Knopf and Bechtel ran to check the situation and began CPR, continuing until local first responders got there with the Michigan state police. While the fire department's press release stated that the trio "saved families from an unsufferable loss," Frank responded, "We just assisted the local municipalities up there and performed CPR until they got pulses back and the individuals breathing." Check out the [Facebook post](#) or learn more about the trio receiving their Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action in this [press release](#).

High School Student in Northern Ohio Region Saves Baby Girl

Alexis Starnes will tell you that she's grateful for the knowledge and training she received during her time as a Girl Scout. In 2021, that training helped save the life of a small child. While feeding a 7-month-old girl baby food,



L to R: Michael Parks, Regional Executive of the Northeast Ohio Region of the American Red Cross; Alexis Starnes, Rachel D'Altona, Executive Director of the American Red Cross of Greater Akron and the Mahoning Valley

Starnes noticed that the child stopped responding. Starnes immediately recognized the signs of choking, unstrapped the child from her chair and began back blows to quickly dislodge the food. Starnes was the only person out of her graduating Girl Scout troop to renew her certification two years after she had received her initial training. "And I'm glad she did," her Instructor, Erin Hosek, said, adding how proud she is of Alexis for using those lifesaving skills that day. Read more about Hosek below; [view](#) the Facebook post for a link to news story about how Starnes earned her Certificate of Merit.

Instructor Spotlight

Erin Hosek

Each month we highlight Instructors whose student(s) used their lifesaving training to save or sustain a life. This month we recognize Erin Hosek, an Instructor from the Northern Ohio region whose student, Alexis Starnes, is profiled above. Hosek trained Starnes in Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED; Starnes used this training to save a choking baby



at a daycare where she was volunteering. Listen to the [podcast interview](#) of Hosek and Starnes to hear them tell their story.

Lifesaving Awards Vault

From the vault of the Lewiston Daily Sun (Lewiston, Maine), April 12, 1980

Nancy Holler, chairman of the Androscoggin Valley Red Cross Chapter, presented Ronald Boothby with the Certificate of Merit for saving the life of a neighbor. Boothby



GETS RED CROSS AWARD - Ronald Boothby, second from left, is presented the American Red Cross presidential award Certificate of Merit for his part last September in administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation to a man in cardiac arrest. Also standing in the photo are Nancy Holler, chairman of the Androscoggin Valley Red Cross Chapter. At right are Boothby's parents, Mrs. and Mrs. Paul Boothby. (Staff photo by Sonakata)

was assisting his parents at a garage sale when a shopper collapsed in the driveway. Recognizing the emergency, Boothby immediately called 911 and then initiated CPR. The responding ambulance team later said that Boothby's CPR saved the man's life. In addition to the Certificate of Merit signed by then-President Jimmy Carter, Boothby was also presented with personal letters of commendation extolling the value of his Red Cross training from then-U.S. Representative Olympia Snowe and then-U.S. Senators Edmund Muskie and William Cohen.



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](https://www.redcross.org/lifesavingawards) to nominate them.

Want to see if you have a local hero in your area?

Take a look at our [map](#).



Get Inspired!

October is Sudden Cardiac Awareness Month. Why not learn how to be prepared when moments matter with a Red Cross course? More than 4.6 million people are trained in Red Cross lifesaving programs every year. Visit us at [redcross.org/training](https://www.redcross.org/training).