

Lifesaving Awards



American Red Cross
Training Services

NOMINATE NOW

Inspiring Stories by Region

Prepared When It Mattered Most in the Puerto Rico Region

Trained in Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED, Nelson Lopez sprang into action when a conference participant suffered a seizure at a Veterans Expo in Richmond, Virginia. A veteran and Red Cross volunteer in the Puerto Rico region attending the conference, Nelson calmly assessed the situation, protected the man from further harm and provided critical care until responders arrived. His steady leadership and lifesaving training made all the difference. This serves as proof that preparedness saves lives. Relive the moment where Nelson received the Certificate of Merit through the full photo album on the region's [Facebook page](#), and for Spanish speaking readers, read the complete [story](#) here.



L to R: Lee Vanessa Feliciano, regional executive of the Red Cross Puerto Rico and Nelson Lopez.

Leadership, Teamwork and Readiness in the Greater New York Region

Five Red Cross-trained high school coaches turned preparation into purpose. When a student suffered a sudden cardiac arrest during practice Ben Martinez, Andrew Siegel, Brian LoRusso, Andrew Bock and Elliot Aramayo sprang into action. Acting as a team, they assessed the situation. Then they performed CPR, used an AED and coordinated care until first responders arrived. Their calm leadership and teamwork exemplify the power of readiness and compassion. Each coach earned them the Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders. Experience the story in full by clicking through to the region's [news page](#).



L to R: Brian LoRusso, Andrew Bock, Andrew Siegel, Ben Martinez and Elliot Aramayo

A Teacher's Quick Action Saves a Life in the Central and South Texas Region

Teacher Caysha Toepfer's courage shone during a school mealtime when a student began choking on an apple slice. Staying calm, she performed abdominal thrusts, dislodging the object. She then offered the child steady reassurance until help arrived. For her compassion and quick action, she received the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action, a reminder that everyday heroes walk among us. For more photos that capture the heart of this lifesaving moment, head over to our region's [Facebook page](#).



Javier Valdez, Red Cross Regional CEO with Caysha Toepfer and her student.

Instructor Spotlight

James Ingari

Each month we highlight an Instructor whose student(s) have used their Red Cross lifesaving training to save or sustain a life. This month we recognize **James Ingari**, whose student Jenna Camire, trained in Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED, responded when a man was found unresponsive at a Stop & Shop in Massachusetts. She removed him from the confined space, began CPR and coordinated use of the store's AED until EMS arrived. Her training and decisive action made a critical difference, for which she was awarded the prestigious Certificate of Merit.

We extend our thanks to James for providing the quality training that allowed his student to take action when it mattered most.



Lifesaving Awards Vault

From the vault of the North-West Signal (Napoleon, OH), November 25, 1980

On this date in history, 17-year-old Phil Cordes received a Red Cross Lifesaving Award for rescuing his 14-year-old sister from a gasoline fire. When she panicked, he forced her to the ground and rolled her in the grass until the flames went out. He then called the hospital to seek advice on caring for her until help arrived.



L to R: Red Cross Safety Services Director Robert Counselman, Phil Cordes, Julie Cordes, neighbor and witness William Watchman



Nominate.



Recognize.



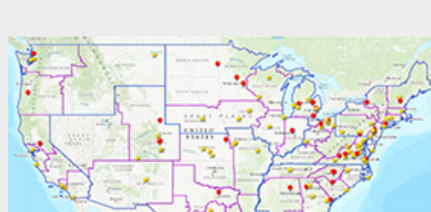
Inspire.

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 a life, visit [LifesavingAwards.org](#) to nominate, recognize or be inspired.

Interactive Map of the Lifesaving Awards

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



Get Inspired!

Each May, the Red Cross proudly celebrates Nurses Month and EMS Week, honoring the professionals who care for communities every day. Founded by nurse Clara Barton, the Red Cross has deep roots in nursing and works side by side with nurses and EMS clinicians across the country. We are grateful for their skill, compassion and dedication. We are proud to stand with them in service.