

# Lifesaving Awards



**American Red Cross**  
Training Services

**NOMINATE NOW**

## Inspiring Stories by Region

### How Courage and Training Transformed a Routine Lunch in the Kentucky Region

Kerry Taylor's quick action during a Louisville lunch saved a woman's life when he noticed her choking and immediately stepped in to help. After obtaining consent, he performed three abdominal thrusts that cleared her airway – proof that his Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED training truly mattered. For his courage and readiness, Kerry received the Red Cross Certificate of Merit, motivating us all to act with confidence and compassion when every second counts. For more inspiring moments like Kerry's, head to the region's [news page](#).



*Pictured are Kerry, Louisville Area Chapter board chair, Regan Nichols, Red Cross Kentucky Region CEO, Nadine McCrindle, and fellow co-workers of Kerry's.*

### A Red Cross Hero Emerges During a Cardiac Arrest Emergency in Kuwait

Charlyn LeBlanc, a National Guard veteran and Red Cross employee, sprang into action when a man collapsed while playing basketball at a gym in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Charlyn was working there as a fitness instructor and, when called, acted without hesitation. She assessed the situation and began lifesaving CPR, leading efforts until medical professionals arrived. The man was rushed to a hospital and ultimately had open heart surgery before heading back to the United States for his recovery. Charlyn's swift response and training in Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED helped prepare her for this moment. For her heroic actions, Charlyn received the Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders. This [news story](#) shows how the right training at the right moment transformed an ordinary day into a lifesaving one.



*Charlyn LeBlanc is honored for her lifesaving actions at Camp Zama, Japan.*

### Quick Action by School Staff Makes an Extraordinary Difference in the Eastern New York Region

Three North Syracuse Central School District staff members were honored by the Red Cross after their swift, coordinated actions saved a colleague's life. When an employee arrived to work in distress, the team acted instantly. They called 911, alerted nurses, administered CPR and used an AED until emergency responders arrived. Thanks to their training and calm teamwork, their colleague recovered. For their efforts, Jody Barnes, Amanda Kelly and Elizabeth Lehmann received Certificates of Extraordinary Personal Action, inspiring pride across the district. Visit the region's [Facebook page](#) to learn more about the remarkable actions taken by everyday community members.



*L to R: Dr. Terry Ward (Superintendent of Schools), Amanda Kelly, Elizabeth Lehmann, Jody Barnes, Laurie Walker (Red Cross Regional Philanthropy Officer) and Naomi Trivison (School Principal).*

## Instructor Spotlight

### Ilene Ferrell

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 Ilene Ferrell, whose student Bryan Barker swiftly put his Red Cross Adult First Aid/CPR/AED training into action when a co-worker fell and suffered a severe bleeding injury. Bryan advised another person on the scene to call 911, then provided first aid care to control the bleeding. The man has since recovered.



Bryan's decisive action and calm leadership exemplify the power of preparedness and the life changing impact of Red Cross training. We extend our thanks to Ilene for providing the quality training that allowed her student to take action when it mattered most.

## Lifesaving Awards Vault

### From the vault of the Lansing State Journal (Lansing, MI), January 8, 1983

**Former Okemos man, partner earn Red Cross top lifesaving award**

On this date in history, Michael Hegel and Michael Ross, two dive instructors, were presented with Certificates of Merit for their response when one of their students hyperventilated, lost consciousness and slipped beneath the water. On shore, Hegel and Ross found that their student was not breathing; she was in cardiac arrest. The two men began CPR, bringing the student around. EMS transported her to the hospital where she was released the next day.



*Nominate.*

*Recognize.*

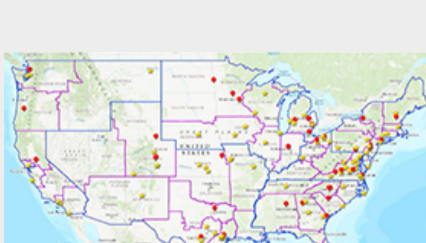
*Inspire.*

### 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](https://www.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!

Red Cross Instructors help build safer communities every day by teaching people how to respond when emergencies happen. Across the country, our Instructors bring passion and purpose to every class. Let's recognize the dedicated individuals who equip millions with lifesaving skills such as CPR, first aid, water safety, lifeguarding, babysitting and others. We can honor our instructors by learning the skills they teach. Encourage your communities to take lifesaving Red Cross training and get prepared for moments that matter.