

Lifesaving Awards



American Red Cross
Training Services

NOMINATE NOW

Inspiring Stories by Region

Heroics Save the Day at A Birthday Dinner in the North Carolina Region

During a birthday dinner, Karen Walton noticed her father-in-law had a distressed look and was wheezing. She quickly recognized that he was choking, rushed over and administered back blows plus abdominal thrusts. After she performed the third abdominal thrust, the food became dislodged and her father-in-law was able to breathe. For her lifesaving actions, Karen was awarded the Certificate of Merit. The impressive details behind Karen's Certificate of Merit can be found on the region's [blog](#), which contains a moving video of the award ceremony.



L to R: Karen Walton with her Instructor, James Spruill

Concert Attendees Operate as a Lifesaving Team in the Wisconsin Region

A musician is alive thanks to some quick thinking from people in his church. Jennifer Fenendael, Keri Hicks, Kurt Hicks, and Claudette Tipton were at a church concert when Wayne Strei, one of the musicians, experienced a medical emergency that caused him to become unresponsive. Jennifer was the first on scene to provide help. Gillett Fire Chief Hicks and Emergency Medical Responder Tipton, off-duty and at the concert, began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the musician. Meanwhile Keri Hicks, Kurt's wife, called 911 while Kurt and Claudette used an automated external defibrillator (AED) to deliver an electrical shock with the hopes of restoring a heart rhythm. EMS then arrived on the scene and assumed care for the victim. [Read more](#) about this foursome's praiseworthy actions that resulted in their each receiving the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action.



Wayne Strei (center) surrounded by the concert-goers who saved his life

Firefighting Crew Members Jump Into Action in the Central and Southern Ohio Region

Four area firefighters, Russell Aikman, Carlos Chafins, Ryan Mowery and Tyler Russell, helped save the life of a 56-year-old man whose truck slammed into the wall of an Ohio racetrack. First responders who worked for the Atomic Speedway began assessing the person's condition immediately. Seeing he was in apparent cardiac arrest, the firefighters, who are also paramedics, went into action, calling 911, beginning compressions and using an AED. The four firefighters, from three different fire departments, worked closely as a team. They continued the lifesaving procedures and maintained patient care while EMS transported him to the hospital. The patient has recovered and is back at work, thanks to this remarkable save. See it on the region's [Facebook page](#) and read the [full story](#) on the local news site.



L to R: Russell Aikman, Tyler Russell, Rya Mowery, Carlos Chafins III

Instructor Spotlight

James Spruill

Each month we highlight an Instructor whose student(s) have used their lifesaving training to save or sustain a life. This month we recognize James Spruill, who trained Karen Walton in Adult First Aid/CPR/AED, one of the stories highlighted above. In fact, Karen and her husband Chip were James' very first students when he began offering certifications in the North Carolina's Outer Banks community. We extend our thanks to James for providing the quality training that allowed Karen to save a life.



Lifesaving Awards Vault

From the vault of the Pineville News (Pineville, Louisiana), December 9, 1965

On this date in history, the Rapides Parish chapter presented Certificates of Merit to two local men, each credited with saving a life. Sam Bonnette's quick actions in responding to a choking patient at the local hospital are credited with saving the patient's life. Additionally, a highway patrolman prevented a driver from bleeding to death at the scene of an automobile accident. Each received a certificate signed by President Lyndon Johnson, honorary president of the American Red Cross.

Red Cross Gives Lifesaving Award To Two Local Men



Nominate.



Recognize.

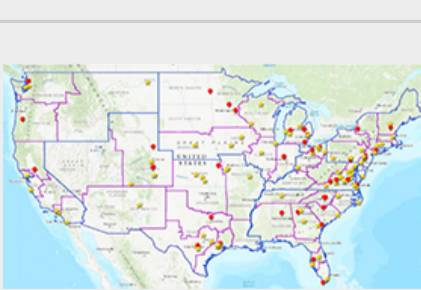


Inspire.

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!

All Red Cross courses are developed through rigorous and continuous evidence evaluation of scientific literature, so you can have confidence in your response when moments matter. That's why we are so pleased that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has been welcomed as a collaborating member into the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR), the leading forum for liaison between principal resuscitation organizations worldwide. ILCOR's vision of saving more lives globally mirrors our own, as we work to ensure that in an emergency, there are always trained individuals nearby, ready to use their Red Cross skills to save lives.