

# Lifesaving Awards



**American Red Cross**  
Training Services

**NOMINATE NOW**

## Inspiring Stories by Region

### Heroes in the Idaho and Montana Region Prove Red Cross Training Saves Lives

When their co-worker, Dan Douglas Sr., collapsed at a funeral, Jennifer Hardwick and Troy Rogge didn't hesitate. Instead, they put their Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED training into action. With swift teamwork, they began CPR and used an AED when it arrived on scene. Dan was revived before emergency crews arrived. Jennifer's and Troy's response turned a moment of crisis into a story of survival. For their selfless actions, Jennifer and Troy received the Red Cross Certificate of Merit, one of the organization's highest honors. Dan's words say it all: "My kids and grandkids still have their dad because of you." Discover the impact of being ready when it matters most; read the full story on the region's website and see a photo album on the region's [Facebook page](#).



L to R: Montana Red Cross Executive Director Hannah Zuraff, Troy Rogge, Jennifer Hardwick and Montana Red Cross Board Chair Craig Stahlberg

### A Lifesaving, 45-Second Response at Pace University in the Greater New York Region

When a swimmer suffered a cardiac arrest while doing laps, two Pace University lifeguards sprang into action. Kieran Hagan, trained in Red Cross Lifeguarding with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid, spotted the man eight feet underwater and executed a submerged rescue. Meanwhile, Angelo DeAugustino, trained in Red Cross Lifeguarding including Deep Water with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid, rushed to assist. Together, they administered CPR and delivered two shocks using an AED before first responders arrived. Bryan's heartbeat was restored before the ambulance doors closed. Their calm, decisive response was exactly what they had trained for. "We knew what to do. It was straight into go mode," Angelo said. It's an incredible story of how confidence and readiness led to life-changing action in under 45 seconds. Read the complete story on how this duo came to receive the Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders on the region's [news page](#).



L to R: Kieran Hagan, rescued swimmer Bryan Zirman, Angelo DeAugustino

### The Right Place at the Right Time: An EMT Took Lifesaving Action in the Wisconsin Region

When a man began choking at a local nursing and rehabilitation center, EMT Harm Bents didn't hesitate. Harm had just finished working on an unrelated call in the facility when a concerned citizen alerted him to a distressed man in a nearby unit. Harm immediately recognized the signs of a fully obstructed airway and performed abdominal thrusts until the obstruction cleared and the man could breathe again. "Knowing what to do gave me the confidence to act," Harm said, urging others to learn this simple, lifesaving skill. The Red Cross Northwest Wisconsin Chapter presented Harm with the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action award, celebrating the power of preparation and courage in action. Read the full story on the region's [blog](#) and see how training and readiness enabled a decisive response.



L to R: Rich Schoenthaler, board chair, Red Cross of Northwest Wisconsin Chapter; Harm Bents; MJ Thomsen, executive director, Red Cross of Northwest Wisconsin Chapter

## Instructor Spotlight

### Eddie Bunton

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 Eddie Bunton, who trained Justin Houston and Erica Webb in Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED.

A teacher suffered a cardiac arrest at a school where Justin works as a faculty staff member and Erica serves as the school nurse. Erica assessed the patient, then Justin subsequently started CPR. He continued CPR until the AED arrived, which Erica set up and applied. Working as a team, they continued lifesaving efforts until EMS arrived. Emergency responders then transported the man to the nearest hospital where he was stabilized.

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



## Lifesaving Awards Vault

### From the vault of the Quad-City Times (Davenport, IA), August 6, 1955

On this date in history, a University of Iowa graduate student was nominated for a Red Cross Lifesaving Award. Duane Chase, age 27, was spending the day at a local quarry when he spotted a 16-year-old swimmer in distress. Without hesitation, Duane jumped into the water, swam 75 yards and then successfully pulled the swimmer to shore.

**Red Cross  
Award To  
SUI Student**



*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!

As we welcome a new year and look ahead to February's Heart Month, there's no better time to honor those who act when every second counts. Nominating someone for a Red Cross Lifesaving Award is more than recognition. It's a powerful way to share their story, inspire others and reinforce the importance of training. Each nomination shines a light on preparedness and encourages more people to learn skills that save lives. Let's make 2026 a year of action and awareness. If you know someone who used their training to step up in a moment of crisis, [nominate](#) them today and help amplify their impact.