

Lifesaving Awards



American Red Cross
Training Services

NOMINATE NOW

Inspiring Stories by Region

Quick Thinking Students Rescue Boy After 40-Foot Fall in the Cascades Region

Western Oregon University students Robert Shidek, Mimi Swetish and Sophia Espinoza didn't realize that their sports climbing Instructor certification would take a dramatic, lifesaving turn when they went to Smith Rock State Park in Oregon. Partly through the certification assessment, a chilling scream pierced the air. An 11-year-old boy had plummeted 40 feet. Sophia and Mimi raced to the scene, finding the boy severely injured. Robert and Instructor Zachary Hammerle quickly joined to assist, grabbing the medical bag while the others checked for a pulse. They knew they had to act fast to save the boy's life. They immediately began administering critical care such as splinting and airway management. Their swift and decisive actions were vital in stabilizing the boy until emergency services arrived. The trio of students received the Certificate of Merit for their actions while Zachary received a commemorative Instructor Award. Pictures and a recap of that day's remarkable events can be found on the region's [news page](#).



L to R: Zachary Hammerle, Sophia Espinoza, Mimi Swetish, and Robert Shidek

Heroic Lifeguard Saves Infant from Drowning in the Minnesota and Dakotas Region

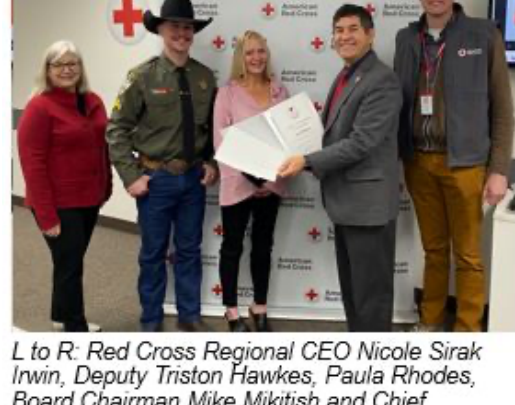
Last year at the Andover, Minnesota YMCA, Amber Lawrence's Red Cross training in Lifeguarding, CPR for the Professional Rescuer, First Aid and Administering Emergency Oxygen was put to the ultimate test. While on duty, Amber witnessed a stroller, with an infant strapped inside, accidentally roll into the deep end of the lap pool. Without hesitation, Amber dove into action, jumped into the water and lifted the stroller just high enough for the baby's head to break the surface. The infant cried out, and with the help of bystanders, both the child and stroller were safely pulled from the water. For her fast-thinking actions, the Red Cross region presented Amber with the Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders. Read about Amber's reaction to this life-threatening situation on the region's [Facebook page](#).



L to R: Amber Lawrence and Brice Johnson, Regional CEO

Deputies Save Teen Trapped Under ATV in the Idaho and Montana Region

Owyhee County (Idaho) Sheriff's Deputies Triston Hawkes and Chase Rhodes were finishing their shifts when an urgent 9-1-1 call came through. An 18-year-old was trapped under an ATV at a nearby trailhead and time was of the essence. Racing to the scene, they found the young man unconscious, without a pulse and not breathing. With the help of a good Samaritan, they managed to lift the heavy ATV off the victim's neck and chest. Surprisingly, his pulse returned and he began to breathe again, but he remained unconscious. The deputies carefully stabilized his head and neck while checking for other injuries. Moments later, EMS arrived. The young man made a full recovery, thanks to the quick and heroic efforts of everyone involved. Deputies Rhodes and Hawkes received the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action. You won't want to miss Deputy Hawkes' recounting of the rescue on the region's [Facebook page](#).



L to R: Red Cross Regional CEO Nicole Sirak Irwin, Deputy Triston Hawkes, Paula Rhodes, Board Chairman Mike Mikitish and Chief Development Officer Bryce Sitter. Deputy Chase Rhodes was unable to attend so his mother Paula accepted the award on his behalf.

Instructor Spotlight

Zachary Olivarez

Each month we highlight an Instructor whose student(s) have used their lifesaving training to save or sustain a life. This month we recognize Zachary Olivarez, whose students, Drew Hodgs, Chris Dutcher and Justin Hoopman, were trained in Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED (Drew and Justin) and Lifeguarding with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid (Chris). Alerted to a male swimmer who went underwater and did not resurface, Drew dove in, working with Chris to bring the person to the surface. Justin activated the Emergency Action Plan, cleared the pool and called 9-1-1. On the pool deck, Chris and Drew performed chest compressions and rescue breaths until the swimmer expelled water and regained consciousness. He was then transported to a medical facility, where he made a full recovery. The story with photos can be found on the Colorado and Wyoming region's [news page](#). We extend our thanks to Zachary for providing the quality training that allowed his students to save a life.



Lifesaving Awards Vault

From the vault of the Iowa City Press-Citizen (Iowa City, IA), August 4, 1955

Propose S.U.I. Student For Red Cross Lifesaving Honor

On this date in history, Duane Chase was recognized with a Lifesaving Award for his heroics in rescuing a teenage boy who couldn't swim and accidentally slipped into a quarry's deep water. Hearing screams, Duane plunged into the water and swam about 150 feet to the struggling youth, towing him to the shore. The boy, who did not lose consciousness, fully recovered.



Nominate.



Recognize.

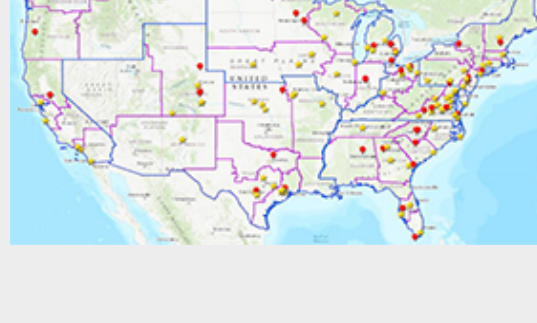


Inspire.

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



Get Inspired!

March is Red Cross month, and we recognize that it's critical to know what to do when a life-threatening emergency occurs. The Red Cross recommends First Aid, CPR and AED [lifesaving training](#) for everyone because life-threatening emergencies happen every day in the workplace, in our homes and in our community.

The Red Cross *Until Help Arrives* course, developed in collaboration with the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), will educate and empower you to take action and provide life-saving care when you are the first on the scene during an emergency. This 90-minute online course is now available for any non-certification needs – read about it and get started [here](#).