

# Lifesaving Awards



**American Red Cross**  
Training Services

**NOMINATE NOW**

## Inspiring Stories by Region

### Store Manager Jumps Into Action in the Connecticut and Rhode Island Region

On a summer day last year, a customer collapsed in the Stop & Shop parking lot in Bellingham, Massachusetts. Kevin Barcelos, the assistant store manager, jumped into action. He immediately called 911, retrieved the automated external defibrillator (AED) and found the shopper having a seizure. The man was turning blue with only agonal breaths. Kevin placed the man on his back to check for response and applied AED pads. No shock was advised, so Kevin began CPR. He continued until a police officer and EMS arrived and transported the man to the hospital. For stepping up and using his Red Cross training in an emergency, Kevin earned the Certificate of Merit. He was recognized for his on-the-spot thinking and response. Read more on the region's [Facebook page](#).



Kevin Barcelos (center), surrounded by members of the Red Cross Connecticut and Rhode Island region.

### Ballpark Employee Takes Decisive Action to Save a Colleague in the Greater Pennsylvania Region

A ceremony took place at a Pittsburgh Pirates game this past season. Executives from the Red Cross and the Pittsburgh Pirates joined together to present Patrick Benedict with a much-deserved Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders. Patrick was working his first shift as game-day security at PNC Park when he noticed a co-worker choking on a hot dog. Patrick performed abdominal thrusts until pieces of the hot dog dislodged. Patrick's intervention took place about a year after he received Red Cross training in First Aid/CPR/AED. We applaud Patrick for his quick thinking and critical action. Read about Patrick's bravery on the region's [Facebook page](#).



L to R: Patrick Benedict and Jorge Martinez, CEO of the American Red Cross Greater Pennsylvania

### A Leisurely Day at the Pool Turns Into a Lifesaving Moment in the Texas Gulf Coast Region

A day at the pool turned serious for one family, who collectively took quick action to help save the life of a 5-year-old boy. Dayana Chavez and Kaily Fernandez, the oldest daughters of William Arias, noticed a boy at the bottom of the pool. They jumped in to check on him, and they realized he wasn't moving. The sisters quickly brought the child to the side of the pool, where their father pulled him out and began CPR alongside the boy's mother. The two kept going until the boy regained consciousness and opened his eyes. For their remarkable actions that likely saved the boy's life, the two daughters and their father received the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action. Read about the well-deserved recognition in this post on the region's [Facebook page](#). You can also hear the dramatic story from the girls themselves on this local [TV report](#).



Kaily Fernandez, Dayana Chavez and William Arias stand in Commissioners Court to receive their Lifesaving Awards.

## Instructor Spotlight

Each month we highlight Instructors whose students have used their lifesaving training to save or sustain a life. We extend our thanks to R.J. and Annie for providing the quality training that allowed their students to save lives.

### R.J. Markowitz

Sisters Lindsey and Nicole Bechter worked as fill-in volleyball referees at the Cuyahoga Falls Recreation Complex in Ohio. The sisters earned their Lifesaving Awards for their part in saving a volleyball player who had fallen ill and collapsed during a game. They started CPR on the unconscious female and continued administering it until medics arrived. Thanks to R.J. they knew what to do.



### Annie Bengry

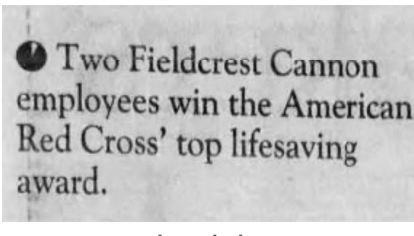
Leah Komarzec and Brett Ceane were lifeguards on duty at the Michigan Technological University Student Development Complex Pool, when they were alerted to a patron experiencing chest pains. Leah activated the Emergency Action Plan, entered the water and guided the man towards the exit point. Once the man was extracted from the pool, she called 911 and retrieved the facility AED while Brett initiated CPR. They continued care until EMS arrived. Leah and Brett were trained by Annie Bengry in Red Cross Lifeguarding with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers. Their actions led to the gentleman regaining consciousness as he was being transported to the medical facility.



## Lifesaving Awards Vault

### From the vault of the News and Record (Greensboro, North Carolina), April 18, 1996

On this date in history, Allison Carter and Steve Hatley, two employees of Fieldcrest Cannon received the Certificate of Merit. They were starting their day at the decorative bedding plant when they heard a loud crash and someone calling for help. They dashed to a nearby office and found a co-worker lying on the floor. Allison and Steve both used their CPR skills that they learned during a workplace First Aid/CPR/AED course on the unconscious, pulseless man. After 10 days in the hospital and a subsequent surgery, the patient received a clean bill of health.



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](https://www.AmericanRedCross.org/LifesavingAwards) to nominate them.

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



### Get Inspired!

We are excited to launch the [@RedCrossScience](https://twitter.com/RedCrossScience) Twitter/X feed. The feed uses this social media platform to promote newly published science, particularly that involves members of the Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council. If you are on Twitter/X, we encourage you to follow us (@RedCrossScience). Join the conversation.