

RED ALERTS!

Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

- Red Cross Month, March. Learn more [here](#).
- Women’s History Month, March. Learn more [here](#).
- International Women’s Day, March 8. Learn more [here](#).
- Red Cross Giving Day, March 24. Learn how you can deliver help and hope [here](#).
- Passover, March 28.



44

Disaster responses in February. Clients helped: 168



MILESTONES

- ALICE KLUNDT, 35 years
- LARRY CHANDLER, 5 years
- DONALD GEERTZ, 5 years
- TONY POWELL, 5 years



SUPPORT HOTLINE

The support hotline offers emotional support during COVID-19. The hotline is staffed by trained Disaster Mental Health volunteers. Call 571-353-1161.



Montana Red Cross volunteers helped Damian Burwell, her baby, Maci, and boyfriend Travis Dirette during an armed standoff near their Livingston home. The community worked together to make sure families like Damian’s, displaced by the standoff, were fed and sheltered, which in Damian’s case, prevented them from sleeping in their vehicle.

# Cradled, warmed, looked after

## Small town revels in help from all corners in crisis

Montana Red Cross volunteers stepped in just when Damian Burwell and her family needed them most. Damian, her 1-year-old daughter and her boyfriend were forced to evacuate from a Livingston mobile home park in early February during a standoff involving an armed man and law enforcement. They originally thought they would be displaced for just a few hours, but it became apparent it was going to be much longer. A full-time student at Montana State University, Damian had just paid her rent and other

first-of-the-month bills and didn’t have money for a motel room. To further complicate matters, others in her support network live in that same mobile home park and were also forced to evacuate, leaving her few obvious options. The family went to Walmart to buy clothes, formula and diapers for 1-year-old Maci and try to figure out what they were going to do next. As the store was closing and they were considering spending a cold winter’s night in their Jeep, they got the phone call they needed to hear — thanks to coordination between emergency officials and the mobile home park property manager. “Red Cross said, ‘Hey, we have a hotel room for you guys,’ ” Damian said. “It was amazing

SEE CARED FOR, PAGE 2

# Teen wins leadership scholarship for work

It’s not a stretch to say that fruit flies led high school junior Alex Kline to organize an American Red Cross blood drive. The flies were at the center of an intensive genetics project that Alex undertook at her school, One Stone’s Lab 51 School in Boise, as she learned how specific traits are transferred. Aware of her project and also of her leadership abilities, one of her academic coaches nominated Alex for the Students of the Year pro-

gram. Affiliated with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the program assigns the students a mentor and engages them in fundraising efforts to benefit cancer research. That’s when Alex made another discovery. “I learned ... that 25 percent of blood donations are given to cancer patients,” Alex said. Before her were two loosely

SEE TEEN, PAGE 3



Idaho teen Alex Kline recently was awarded a scholarship for helping organize a Red Cross blood drive through the Leaders Save Lives program. She also helps out at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

# We need your compassion

Read about some new volunteer opportunities, learn how to print your ID badge, make plans to Ketchup with Friends and meet a new teammate in this month's IN THE KNOW.

## COMFORTING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Donating blood can be stressful, especially for first-timers.

You can help the Red Cross in your community by using your customer service skills. Volunteer donor ambassadors ensure that blood donors have a pleasant and fulfilling experience.

Whether you're greeting donors, answering questions or thanking them for their donation, your courtesy and professionalism will create a favorable impression that encourages ongoing donor support.

### Qualifications and key tasks:

- Communicate well
- Demonstrate excellent customer service
- Follow COVID-19 protocols
- Manage the reception process
- Manage the hospitality experience

### Time requirements:

- One 4- to 6-hour shift per month for six months, Monday-Friday during business hours.

The primary locations where help is needed are **Boise, Pocatello, Bozeman, and Missoula.**

Questions? Contact Nate Gilbert at [IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org](mailto:IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org) or by phone/text at 208-488-5231. For more information and to complete an application visit: [www.redcross.org/donorambassador](http://www.redcross.org/donorambassador)

**PRINT YOUR OWN BADGE:** One cool step that connects volunteers even

## IN THE KNOW

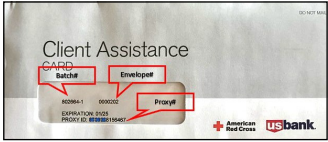


RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS

more deeply to their Red Cross work is the ability to print their own ID badges.

Volunteer Connection users can view, download and print Red Cross ID badges directly from their profile. The ID Badge Function will provide volunteers an easy-to-use ID that is tied to Volunteer Connection and can be used when checking in to shifts/events scheduled in Volunteer Connection.

For more information on how to access and use ID badges for the Red Cross, click [here](#).



**IT'S CARD TIME AGAIN:** It's time for the quarterly inventory of client assistance and mission cards. This is a required process to support responsible stewardship of these cards in the region. This only takes a few minutes and your help is greatly appreciated!

The online reporting form will be open **March 1 through 8**. We will compile a snapshot of the location of cards on one specific date – **Feb. 28**. Please note the cards you have on Feb. 28 only and report that, even if that information changes because you use cards during the open reporting window the next week.

Please use this link <https://bit.ly/2HS4BnR> to fill out the form and record card information. That information is found on the outside of the

envelopes in which these cards were provided. All workers with client assistance cards or mission cards must complete the form, regardless of position.

Cards that are not reported will be electronically destroyed shortly after the form closes on **March 8** so our records will remain accurate. In this event, you will no longer be able to use these cards.

**WELCOME ABOARD:** The Red Cross welcomes the new Virtual Red Cross Youth Lead — **Raegan Hauschildt**. A junior attending the University of Montana in Missoula, she has a double major in neuroscience and human biology, with a minor in studio art. She is also coaching Write It CAD It for To-kay High School Science Olympiad.



Raegan

Raegan is designing the new two-state Virtual Red Cross Club, expected to launch in March or April. The club is aimed at high school students, ages 13 to 17, in the region and immerse them in Red Cross mission delivery.

**KETCHUP WITH FRIENDS:** What is it? Our monthly virtual social gathering on Microsoft Teams. NO agenda, NO training, just good times meeting other Red Crossers. (Oh, and there might be a drawing or two.) Congratulations, **Traci Bruha**, February's winner.



The next Microsoft TEAMS meeting is March 9 at noon. **Join on your computer or mobile app.** Click [here](#) to join the meeting.

# Cared for: Standoff strands families

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

because we were panicking. We had a 1-year-old who was not in a good mood, who wanted to go home but we couldn't go home, and it was freezing outside."

That night and the next, the family was able to stay at the local Travelodge, where they were also provided meals at no cost.

"We were so relieved when we got to the hotel room," she said. "Our 1-year-old sleeps in a crib, and the hotel even had a pack-and-play we could use, and lunches and dinners were all taken care of so we didn't have to spend a fortune on fast food."

Over three days, Montana Red Cross worked closely with community partners to provide more than 55 overnight hotel stays and serve 66 meals to 19 families displaced by the armed standoff. Volunteers also handed out blankets and comfort kits with hygiene items like tooth paste and shampoo and helped replace critical medications left behind during the evacuation.

The standoff, which began on a Tuesday afternoon, finally ended Wednesday night when law enforcement were able to take the man into custody. Families were allowed to return to their homes the following day.

"The families were definitely appreciative," Red Cross disaster action



## YOU CAN HELP

Did you know Montana Red Cross helped more than **700 people** following a disaster last year? Help us respond to disasters big and small by making a financial gift today.

**Visit MontanaRedCross.org** or call **800-272-6668** to learn more.

team volunteer Joan Mainwaring said. "We had several of the people we helped ask how they could become volunteers."

Damian's daughter even got something special to put her at ease at her temporary home-away-from-home.

"Macy got the cutest Mickey Mouse

toy, and she loved it," Damian said. "It gave her that extra little 'oh, everything's OK.'"

Valerie Utley, a Red Cross disaster responder who lives in Livingston, is proud of how well her community stepped up. That included local restaurants that got warm meals out the door quickly, the property manager who helped make sure tenants found a safe place to stay and emergency officials who helped coordinate efforts.

"It was really neat to see a small community all coming together," she said.

It's compassionate responses like these, she said, that make her proud to wear the Red Cross vest.

"It doesn't matter the situation, the Red Cross is there," she said. "It's not just natural disasters — it's not just hurricanes — it's the small fires, it's the standoff, it's anything, and I love that about this organization. All my years growing up, I've seen them on TV and always wanted to be part of an organization that's bigger than myself, bigger than the disaster and be there for somebody. Even if it's just holding their hand, giving them a hug, reassuring them ... to give them some sense of peace and reassurance in a very trying time.

"The Red Cross mission is what I'm about."

— *Story by Matt Ochsner, regional communications director*



# Support us at tax time

Please consider supporting the Red Cross of Greater Idaho as you file your taxes this year.

The Idaho individual income tax form provides an easy way to donate money to the humanitarian organization and support our work in communities across the state.

Just fill out the line next to the Amer-

DONATIONS. See instructions, page 9. I want to donate to:

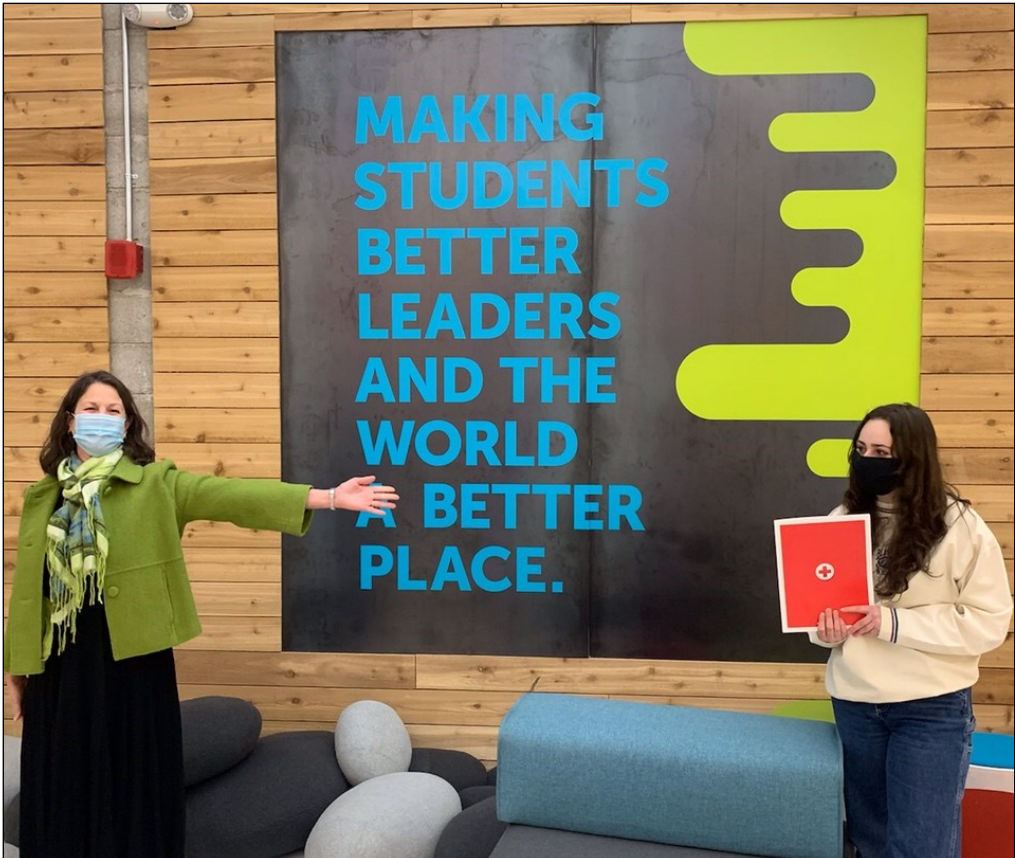
33. Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund .....	.....
35. Special Olympics Idaho .....	.....
37. American Red Cross of Idaho Fund .....	.....
39. Idaho Foodbank Fund .....	.....
41. TOTAL TAX PLUS DONATIONS. Add lines 32 through 40	.....

ican Red Cross of Idaho Fund on your tax form to make a donation. (See photo above.)

These tax-deductible donations will

stay in Idaho and help Red Cross provide disaster relief, collect and distribute blood, support military members and their families, recruit, train and deploy volunteers and teach lifesaving skills like CPR and first aid.

Thank you for all you do to help us turn empathy into action and fulfill our mission.



Red Cross account manager Margee Sell, left, presents Boise high school student Alex Kline with her \$1,000 scholarship.

## Teen: Successful drive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

linked organizations — the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the American Red Cross — and Alex realized she had another leadership opportunity to work with both to make a difference.

Because of an iron deficiency, Alex is unable to donate blood right now, so she began to look for other ways to help.

One day while surfing the Internet, she came upon the American Red Cross website. There, she learned about Leaders Save Lives, a program that encourages students to host blood drives and

TO LEARN MORE

Additional information about the Red Cross Leaders Save Lives Scholarship program can be accessed [here](#).

offers them an opportunity to win a college scholarship.

Hosting a blood drive would be a way to assist the Red Cross. It also would help her set the stage for her Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fundraising campaign.

Margee Sell became Alex’s Red

Cross mentor, helping her arrange a donation site and work out other logistics like recruiting donors.

At first, it was challenging. As the date of the drive drew nearer, only three people had scheduled a donation appointment. But Alex didn’t give up. She brought up the drive during discussions with her friends and convinced her school to put information into its weekly newsletter.

Word began to get out.

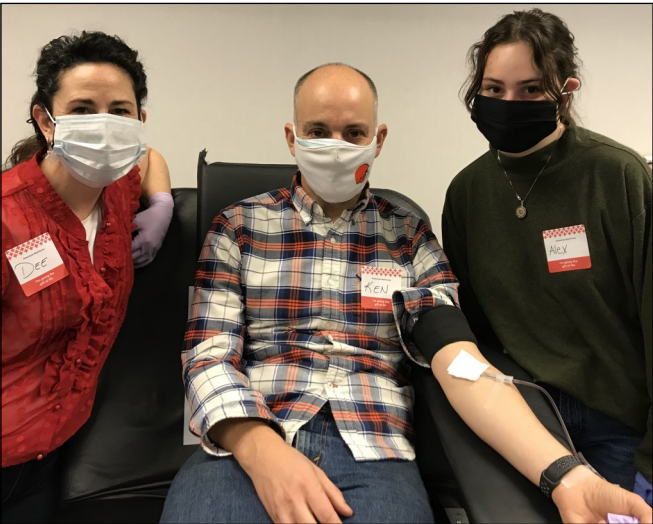
Not long after, a local television station interviewed Alex, and after the story aired, the blood drive schedule began to fill up.

By hosting a Leaders Save Lives drive, Alex was eligible for a chance to win a Red Cross scholarship. To qualify, a drive needs to bring in 25 units. Alex’s drive collected 38.

Her name was automatically entered into the Leaders Save Lives national scholarship drawing, and she was one of hundreds from across the country to qualify. Her hard work paid off.

In January, Alex learned she was one of four \$1,000 scholarship winners, money she will use to pursue an even bigger goal — studying genetics at a major U.S. university.

“Do it!” Alex exclaimed when asked if others her age should consider hosting a blood drive. “It’s a great way to get involved with your community and gain leadership skills.”



Volunteer Alex Kline recruited family members, friends and classmates to support her effort to run a successful blood drive for the Red Cross. Her parents (above) pitched in to help.

— Story by Red Cross writing team volunteer Ellen McKinnon