

# RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



### ON THE HORIZON

- Independence Day, July 4.
- National Disability Independence Day, July 26.
- International Day of Friendship, July 30.



## 24

Disaster responses in June. Clients helped: **99**



### MILESTONES

July

- BEVERLY CLARK, 15 years
- JOHN MCNAMARA, 15 years
- DANE WATKINS, 15 years
- STEPHEN GERMAN, 10 years



Andrew

### Welcome

Andrew Harper is the new Disaster Program Manager, servicing Eastern Montana.

Andrew comes to the American Red Cross after a career in the health care industry and as Disaster Emergency Services Director for Musselshell County. He worked with multi-county agencies and stakeholders to develop strategies for a more resilient community. He is also a volunteer EMT.

Andrew lives in Eastern Montana with his wife and three daughters. He enjoys amateur radio, sailing, boating, and being outdoors.



Mike and Sara Cline celebrated their son Liam's first birthday by holding a Red Cross blood drive in Anaconda. Sara needed 25 units of blood after giving birth to Liam.

## Mom recruits 29 first-time donors

### Family eager to replenish blood supplies

Sara Cline celebrated her son Liam's first birthday recently, an unforgettable milestone she wouldn't have been able to share with him if not for the generosity of blood donors.

A project engineer who lives in Anaconda, Sara had a relatively easy pregnancy. But when the day finally came, Sara had to be induced, and her medical team performed an emergency cesarean section after almost 24 hours of labor.

On May 14, 2020, Liam was born healthy, but shortly after Sara was moved to the recovery room, her blood pressure crashed and she felt like she might pass out. Doctors found the source of the bleeding and performed surgery to fix it, but she still wasn't stabilizing. Then they discovered a much bigger issue – a rupture in her uterine artery causing severe hemorrhaging.

SEE HEALTHY BABY, PAGE 3

### BLOOD DESPERATELY NEEDED

The American Red Cross is experiencing a severe blood shortage nationwide as the number of trauma cases, organ transplants and elective surgeries rise, and frequent donors hit the road for summer vacations. Please help keep shelves stocked and make sure lifesaving blood is available for patients like Sara by scheduling a donation today. Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 800-RED-CROSS. A donation takes less than an hour and potentially can save up to three lives.



### RETIREMENT

## 40 years of joy, ingenuity, mileage

It was 1981 and Eric Beasley was working for United Van Lines in Boise when a friend mentioned that the American Red Cross was looking for a driver to go out to blood draws. Eric didn't think much about it until one slow day on the job when his boss told him to either go paint the warehouse or take the rest of the day off.

Eric decided it was finally time to pay the Red Cross a visit. Four decades later, Eric agrees that was a good decision.

"I still look at it and say 'wow, how did that happen?'" Eric joked.

SEE JOY, PAGE 3



Eric Beasley, center, is surrounded by well-wishers at his recent retirement party after 40 years of service.

# Key volunteer jobs open

## Energy, passion indispensable

Four important volunteer positions are open in the region, and the Red Cross is looking for leaders to fill them.

**Logistics, Regional Program Lead** – Do you have a passion for resource management and strategy? If so, you may be a perfect fit for the Logistics Regional Program Lead position. The position provides oversight for the logistics activities: Facility Management, In-Kind Donations, Supply, Procurement, and more. If you are interested, please email Regional Disaster Officer Ted Koenig at [ted.koenig@redcross.org](mailto:ted.koenig@redcross.org) or by phone at 406-360-0647.

**Mass Care, Regional Program Lead** – Are you seeking a new challenge and an opportunity to guide our region’s client-facing mass care mission? If so, the Mass Care Regional Program Lead position may be what you’re looking for. T

he position oversees the regional feeding leads, sheltering leads, distribution of emergency supplies leads, and reunification leads. **Contact:** Ted Koenig at [ted.koenig@redcross.org](mailto:ted.koenig@redcross.org) or 406-360-0647.

**Sheltering, Regional Program Lead** – Sheltering is core to the Red Cross’ Disaster Services mission. If you would

like the opportunity to support and build capacity in this critical mission area, the Sheltering Regional Program Lead is a fantastic chance to do that. **Contact:** Ted Koenig at [ted.koenig@redcross.org](mailto:ted.koenig@redcross.org) or 406-360-0647.

**Training, Regional Training Lead** - Do you think training is important? Would you like to see the Idaho and Montana Region offer more training opportunities?

This position works with leadership and a training team to learn, offer and coordinate training.

If interested, please contact Disaster Program Manager Peggy Smith at [peggy.smith@redcross.org](mailto:peggy.smith@redcross.org), or by phone at (208) 789-3326.

# Donor support a rewarding task

New volunteer positions open up all the time, and In The Know keeps you up to date on changes. Also, check out the new T-shirt design below, and be sure to join your fellow volunteers for social time in July. Keep reading!

**VOLUNTEER DONOR AMBASSADORS.** We are seeking volunteers with the customer service skills to ensure that blood donors have a pleasant and fulfilling experience. Successful applicants will be courteous and professional, with a knack for putting people at ease.

**Donor Ambassador:** Greet donors during a blood drive, answer questions, help them work through any issues, thank them and create a favorable impression.

**Location:** Onsite at blood drives.

**Qualifications, Key Tasks:**

- Communicate in a professional manner with diverse populations.
- Demonstrate excellent customer service and comfort working with people.
- Manage the reception process by ensuring each donor is warmly greeted and assisted with initial intake according to the appointment priority system.
- Manage the hospitality experience by offering refreshments to donors, thanking them for their contribution, and offering to schedule their next donation appointment.

**Time commitment:** One 4-6 hour shift per month for six months.

**Needed availability:** M-F during hours when blood drives are held.

**Primary locations:** Missoula, Havre, Pocatello, Twin Falls and Lewiston.

**COVID GUIDELINES.** As the country continues to open up, the Red Cross has followed the CDC’s lead in establishing guidelines regarding staff and employees.

Here are the guidelines from into effect at the Red Cross in late May.

- Fully vaccinated workforce (paid and volunteers) will no longer need to wear a mask while conducting Red Cross business – including previously restricted face-to-face interactions – as long as they avoid large groups.



**IN THE KNOW**  
*RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS*

- Nonvaccinated workforce whose job function requires face-to-face interactions with the public will continue to perform their job, but they must wear a mask and continue socially distancing.
- Fully vaccinated blood donors and class participants will no longer need to wear a mask or socially distance. Non-vaccinated blood donors and class participants will continue to be required to wear a mask and socially distance.

Individual lines of service (Service to the Armed Forces, Disaster Cycle Services, etc.) will notify you of requirements and guidance for those areas.

Volunteers are encouraged to report their vaccination status in Volunteer Connection as soon as they become fully vaccinated. Go to MyNHQ on the Volunteer Connection homepage and follow the directions under COVID-19 information.

Recording your vaccination status is not a requirement, nor is receiving a vaccine.

Personal vaccination information will be treated as confidential.

If an employee or volunteer does not provide their COVID-19 vaccination status, we’ll assume that individual has not been vaccinated.

To help address any questions, please review the [Changing COVID-19 Safety Protocols and Vaccine Reporting FAQs](#), or reach out to your supervisor or email [IDMT.info@redcross.org](mailto:IDMT.info@redcross.org).

**KETCHUP WITH FRIENDS.** These social sessions with volunteers have provided many lighthearted moments. Please consider joining us for our July session, and sign up to win a door prize. June winners were Joy Baxter and Peter Davidson. We would love to have additional event team members to help us plan more fun events like this one.

If you are interested, please contact Nate Gilbert at [Nathan.Gilbert@redcross.org](mailto:Nathan.Gilbert@redcross.org).

Join this **Microsoft Teams** meeting on your computer or mobile app at 7:30



Megan Gilbert wears one of the new volunteer T-shirts. In addition to the updated design, the shirts now include East Oregon, new to the region.

p.m. July 13. To join, [Click here](#).

**VOLUNTEER T-SHIRTS.** You voted and our national design team took our top winning ideas and created a new regional T-shirt.

The design is classic and reflects our region. It also welcomes our volunteers from East Oregon. Our region is currently more than 1,000 volunteers strong and they continue to embrace teamwork and serve our mission.

All Humanitarian Services volunteers who have recorded at least one hour since July 1, 2020, are eligible (so if you haven’t logged your hours for the last year, now is a good time to go to the Volunteer Connection to do that).

Regional leaders are working on scheduling some T-shirt rally days in August. Volunteers are asked to be patient, because the organization is still functioning under COVID travel restrictions.

Volunteers also will receive a request to update their online profile with a current shirt size.

Please log your hours so your name is included. We will do our annual drawing for some great Red Cross apparel.

Names will be drawn in two categories: volunteers with more than 20 worked hours, and those with more than 100 worked hours.

To be counted, hours worked must fall between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

You don’t want to miss out on these drawings.



## Red Lodge team helps fire victims



Red Cross volunteers opened an evacuation shelter in June for those displaced by a wildfire burning south of Red Lodge. The shelter helped provide a safe place to stay, meals, information and access to other community resources.

## Joy: Jack-of-all-trades thrives at Red Cross

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Eric hung up his Red Cross vest for the final time on June 4, 40 years and a few months after the fleet and facilities technician walked through the door for the first time. During that time Eric has adapted to tremendous change, driven “a million miles” and seen a lot of amazing people do a lot of amazing work.

“I believe in the Red Cross mission – it’s huge,” he said. “It helps people – patients who need blood and those we serve through CPR and safety classes and disaster response. This is a great organization. I’m proud to have worked for them all these years. That’s what kept me here.”

Eric spent his first 10 years at the Red Cross as a mobile unit driver, driving a box truck to blood drives across Idaho and into Washington and Eastern Oregon “and everywhere in between,” helping load and unload equipment. He also was called upon often to come to the rescue during the inevitable crisis that comes with frequent road trips across a vast, remote region.

“I had three years of auto mechanics in high school,” the Boise native said. “And then my dad was a certified aircraft mechanic, so we worked on everything and that was pretty handy when I was on the road. I remember pulling a starter out of a box truck on a snowy day in Sun Valley because I knew what to do to fix it.”

Back then there were only four nurses at Red Cross blood drives with some pretty ambitious goals during a four-hour draw.

“We had some pretty long days,” he said.

And of course, there were a lot of snowy roads and white-knuckle driving.

Eric remembers a trip back from

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It’s been a fantastic time, and I’m going to miss everybody, I know that.

*Eric Beasley, on retiring*

”

Washington State University when he came around a corner and discovered a car tipped on its side with the driver still inside. The driver was able to climb out a window and together they tipped the car back on its wheels. They got the car started and away he went.

“I don’t recall in all the years I drove not making it to a site due to weather,” Eric said.

He also spent some windshield time at 13,000 feet with the Civil Air Patrol as they delivered blood collected at mobile drives back to Boise so they could process the plasma in time.

“Usually it was a Cessna 172 or 182 – a small plane,” he said. “It was really interesting ... it was ‘keep an eye on that gauge for me’ or ‘if you see any other airplanes let me know.’”

Pen and paper reigned supreme when he started his time in hospital services assisting with blood storage and distribution.

“When I was here there were no computers,” he said. “Everything was handwritten. Then comes the computer age and that was quite the change.”

He said some of the most memorable – and nerve-racking – times came during surprise Food and Drug Administra-

tion inspections.

“I remember the first time we had an FDA inspector come in, my boss wasn’t there so it was me and I had never even been in one before,” he said. “That was pretty exciting.”

But as always, Eric found a way to get the job done.

And there’s no doubt his can-do, adapt-to-whatever-the-job-throws-at-you attitude will certainly be missed.

“Eric’s kind and collaborative nature truly made a difference here,” said Dawn Brossart, regional chief operations officer. “We will miss his positive attitude, and most of all, his unfailing dedication to helping this place function a little better every day. He has been great to work with, and we will never forget all his experiences and knowledge of the Red Cross he shared with us.

“Cheers to 40 years of hard work and dedicated service to our team and the Red Cross. It’s time for a well-deserved change of pace – all the best for a wonderful retirement!”

Even after he walks out of the Red Cross door that final time, Eric said he’s got plenty to keep him busy. At home, a big shop and plenty of old cars and trucks are waiting for him. And of course, there will be more time to relax and enjoy family. But he will also miss the Red Cross family he’s leaving behind.

“It’s been really neat – all the people, the staff and the volunteers. I really enjoyed working with so many volunteers across the state, and I always find it amazing that these people do what they do for nothing. It’s pretty astounding.

“It’s been a fantastic time, and I’m going to miss everybody, I know that.”

— *Story by Matt Ochsner*

## Healthy baby: Mom, dad beat donor goal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She was rushed into surgery again to repair the tear.

By that point, Sara had lost so much blood her body went into shock and her blood was no longer able to clot. They placed her on a helicopter bound for Missoula, and every second mattered.

“By the time I got to Missoula I was right on the edge,” Sara said. “They weren’t sure I was going to make it.”

Sara said the Missoula team was ready and waiting for her when she arrived so all they needed to do “was plug her in.”

“There were so many things that just went perfectly right,” she said.

“Any hiccup along the way, and I wouldn’t be here today. I had really amazing medical teams.”

Before it was all said and done, Sara required 25 units of blood products – products available because of generous donors.

In honor of those donors and to celebrate Liam’s first birthday, Sara and her husband, Mike, held a Red Cross blood drive at Mike’s physical therapy office in Anaconda. Donors were greeted with a huge birthday cake provided by the Clines, and Liam was there to spread some joy.

The Clines’ goal was to collect 25 units – the amount Sara needed during her treatment and recovery – and more than 34 donors came through the door.

They included three members of Sara’s medical team and 29 first-time donors.

“That was my No. 1 motivator for doing the blood drive — I felt like I owed it to the donors who saved my life to replenish the blood I used,” she said.

Sara said she hopes to continue donating until she personally gives 25 units, and she encourages others to come give it a try — even those who might be a little afraid of needles.

“It’s a little tiny poke and it makes all the difference in somebody’s life,” she said. “For us, our son knows his mom because of people who were able to do that.”

— *Story by Matt Ochsner*