

RED ALERTS!



Keeping our Red Cross volunteer workforce engaged and informed



ON THE HORIZON

- [Fire Prevention Week](#) begins, Oct. 3.
- [World Mental Health Day](#), Oct. 10.
- [Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day](#), Oct. 11.



60

Disaster responses in September.
Clients helped:
143



MILESTONES

October

- VIC PAUL, 30 years
- TERRY LOVELAND, 15 years
- JOYCE McDANIEL, 10 years
- LYNDA TYLER, 10 years
- LOUISE ATKINSON, 5 years
- AUSTIN COLE, 5 years
- TRINA CONNER, 5 years
- CHRISTIAN HERNANDEZ, 5 years
- JOHN HOOPES, 5 years
- LORNA HOOPES, 5 years



GIVE BLOOD
 Visit
RedCrossBlood.org

A BIG umbrella



PHOTO BY RED CROSS VOLUNTEER JOHN MCGREW

The extended Littlebird family found shelter after they were driven from their homes in Lame Deer during the recent wildfires. Red Cross and its Crow and Northern Cheyenne partners provided 358 overnight stays at shelters in Crow Agency and Busby.

Adults relieved; kids play ball

When the emergency sirens sounded in Lame Deer, Jacklyn Littlebird knew it was time for her, her adult children and her 21 grandkids and great-grandkids to get out quickly. Finding a spot to go with a group that large was the hard part. “I saw the fire from my home – and actually it was in four directions all around Lame Deer. Lame Deer is in a gully, so I got freaked out,” she said. “I knew if we didn’t leave and something happens it’s going to be a hard time.”

Driven by high heat and wind, the Richard Spring and the Lame Deer wildfires were converging on the southeastern Montana community and neighboring towns.

Unable to find motel rooms, the Littlebird family packed up some camping gear and planned to head to a campground. But on their way out of town, they heard news that the Crow Nation, supported by the Red Cross, had opened an evacuation shelter at a gym in Crow Agency. That’s where they headed, their home for the next week.

“They helped us ... they saved us,” Jacklyn said. “They treated us good, and I appreciate everything. We had showers and bathrooms. I just felt so much better because that fire was

“

I kept my family together, and everything we needed to get us through the day was taken care of.

Jacklyn Littlebird, on shelter accommodations

”

bad. I just thank God that I didn’t have to worry about anything.”

With their children taken care of, Jacklyn’s four adult children were able to return to Lame Deer and pitch in where they could, to help their community. Jacklyn’s daughter helps run the gas station there, and she could now direct her attention to keeping the generators running and helping people get fuel so they could get out of town.

“They knew we were safe so they were able to focus on their jobs 100 percent,” Jacklyn said.

SEE LITTLEBIRDS, PAGE 3

Donor overcomes needle fear to help others

Linda Adams was 28 and living in Eastern Washington when a complication during pregnancy made her realize just how important a steady and stable blood supply can be. She had a tubal pregnancy, which led to a rupture and internal bleeding.

Before it was all said and done, she required three pints of lifesaving blood.

“I could have very easily died if I had not been given a transfusion,” the Homedale, Idaho, woman said. “It was a lifesaving moment for me when they were able to give me that blood back.

“(The medical staff) kind of made a joke and said if it weren’t for your brown eyes we wouldn’t be able to see you on the white sheets you were so pale.”

For the past 30 years, Linda has been a frequent blood donor. She had many other difficult pregnancies through the years – requiring several blood transfusions and driving home just how important blood can be.

She said she was a little hesitant to roll up her sleeve at first because needles make her queasy, but she quickly got past that.

“I thought ‘I can sacrifice this much to help somebody live.’ I was like ‘suck it up,’” she said. “And I’ve overcome that over the years. You just get used to doing it.”



Her husband, Don, also is a regular donor and encouraged Linda to give. Don is CMV negative, making him the perfect donor for babies. Babies should receive blood only from donors who have not been exposed to CMV, a flu-like virus present in up to 85 percent of adults by age 40, making these donors extremely valuable.

“He’s got magic blood,” she said. She enjoys the sense of shared purpose she gets while sitting alongside other donors at a drive. And she’s even begun volunteering at Caldwell drives as a blood donor ambassador, welcoming donors as they come through the door.

“It’s kind of a neat feeling to be in a room when you’re all doing the same service for others,” she said. “It makes me feel good.”

And she strongly encourages others who may have never

SEE NEEDLES, PAGE 2

Say hello to our team



GINI KAY

Hello! I'm a recruitment specialist, based out of Missoula, Mont. I work to share open volunteer opportunities for all lines of service across our region.

Favorite thing about fall: Enjoying the leaves changing color.



NATE GILBERT

I live in Caldwell, Idaho, which is near Boise. I help with engaging volunteers and making sure volunteers are in a role that is a good fit for them.

Favorite thing about fall: I get to wear sweaters and jackets (I wish I could wear them year-round).



WENDY MCGREW

I live in Missoula, Mont., and oversee the Volunteer Services program. That includes recruitment, engagement and volunteer management in addition to divisional and national responsibilities.

Favorite thing about fall: Watching fall sports and celebrating family holidays.

Disasters create staffing needs

If you have the capacity to travel to help with disaster response, take a good look at the volunteer Position of the Month, below. Also, hang out with fellow volunteers for a fun, Halloween-themed meeting, and check out a man who has completed 30 years of service to the Red Cross. Read on!

DEPLOYMENT HELP NEEDED. Disaster Casework volunteer. We are currently experiencing another extremely busy disaster season. If you have the flexibility to deploy for two weeks at a time, we need you!

Please consider volunteering to assist at Red Cross shelters, helping those driven from their homes by disasters big and small. As a Disaster Casework volunteer, you will support the recovery process of disaster-affected families and communities through guidance and referrals.

Volunteer responsibilities:

- Be able to serve the client with care, comfort and concern.
- Conduct Intake by interviewing the client and opening a case in RC Care.
- Provide financial assistance to qualified clients, provide internal referrals and/or community referrals, conduct follow-up and recovery planning services.
- Be comfortable learning RC Care online case management systems and willing to complete the required virtual self-paced training (9 hours of training total).

IN THE KNOW



RED CROSS NEWS & HAPPENINGS

- Experience using Microsoft Office products and have the ability to read, write, and follow verbal and written instructions in English.

Locations and time commitment: *Deployment.*

Local/Regional: Shift work determined by the scale of the relief operation; a minimum requirement of 8-12 hours per day during the disaster relief operation for multiple, consecutive days.

Beyond Region: Deploy to an impacted area for minimum of 14-days, working 8- or 12- hours shifts.

To learn more about these positions click on the **Urgent Volunteer Needs** tile in Volunteer Connection or contact our team by email, IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org

KETCHUP WITH FRIENDS 2.0.

Special Halloween Edition: Come dressed up in your favorite costume!

We will be giving a prize to the top three **best costumes!** We'll have a spooky time.

Please join us for our next social time together on Tuesday, Oct. 12, from 7:30 – 8 p.m. No training, no agenda, just fun connecting with fellow Red Crossers from all lines of service volunteers. Door prize winners from our September meeting were Carol Lipp and Liam Elms.



Vic Paul transports lifesaving blood as part of his volunteer work.

It's been 30 years

This month, amazing Idaho Red Cross volunteer Vic Paul celebrates 30 years with the organization.

Vic, who is 92, volunteers as a transportation specialist helping deliver lifesaving blood products in the Boise area and also with the Service to the Armed Forces program.

He donated blood for more than three decades until his doctor suggested he give it up. But that hasn't stopped Vic from giving back.

"I just grab onto every day I can now," he said.

Read his story [here](#).

Needles: Emergency shortage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

donated to give it a try and be someone's lifeline – even those who cringe at the sight of a needle.

"Go for it," she said. "Just search your heart and do what you feel is the right thing to do."

EMERGENCY SHORTAGE

Right now, the American Red Cross is facing an emergency blood shortage and must collect 10,000 additional blood products each week over the next month for the blood supply to recover

and meet hospital demand.

The national Red Cross blood inventory is the lowest it's been at this time of year since 2015, with less than a day's supply of certain blood types in recent weeks.

The supply of types O positive and O negative blood, the most needed blood types by hospitals, dropped to less than a half-day supply at times over the last month – well below the ideal five-day supply.

Find a drive near you and schedule an appointment today by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 800-RED-

CROSS.

A donation takes less than an hour and can potentially save three lives.

If you're not eligible to donate but would still like to help, please consider volunteering at blood drives as a blood donor ambassador.

These volunteers welcome donors, help schedule their next appointment and make sure they have a good experience.

If you're interested or want to learn more, email IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org or call/text 406-493-8778.

Littlebirds: All together

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Her grandkids love basketball so the fact the shelter was in a gym was a godsend, Jacklyn said. Her grandkids range in age from 1 to 20.

“I really thank the Lord because three basketballs kept them occupied the whole time,” she said. “When we first got there, I told them we need to get to bed because starting tomorrow we have basketball camp. And they’re all like ‘Yay!’

Besides giving the Littlebird family a safe place to stay, the Crow Nation and the Red Cross also provided them information about the fire and air quality and served three meals a day.

“I kept my family together, and everything we needed to get us through the day was taken care of,” she said. “I was ready to prepare my own meals and whatever I needed to do, but they came along and helped.”

Over the course of a week, the Red Cross and its Crow and Northern Cheyenne partners provided 358 overnight stays at shelters in Crow Agency and Busby and also served 3,200 meals and snacks.

BECOME A RED CROSS DISASTER RESPONDER



The Red Cross needs volunteers to support disaster shelters just like those in Crow Agency and Busby and beyond. Volunteers will help with reception, registration, food distribution, sheltering, information collection and other vital tasks.

If you’re interested, please send an email to IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org or call 406-493-8778.

Two Red Cross emergency response vehicles helped deliver meals from Billings, and more than 30 Red Cross volunteers and staff helped provide comfort and care to those displaced by the two wildfires.

“Your heart just bleeds for them because they’re taken out of their homes and interacting with people they don’t know,” Red Cross volunteer disaster responder Sue Hawthorne said. “It was a sense of relief when they realized we were there to help them.”

A Red Crosser since 2013, Sue said she couldn’t overstate how much the

Crow Nation did to help families chased out by the flames and the steps they took to keep them safe from COVID through temperature checks, mask use and access to hand sanitizer.

“The care of the elders was top priority at that shelter,” she said. “I felt honored to see how they took such great care of their community.”

As the fires abated and the evacuation orders were lifted, Jacklyn’s 21 grandkids and great-grandchildren were able to return home, preparing for the start of the school year.

“I just want to thank the Red Cross for being there for the people,” she said. “They sure helped me and my family out.”



Sue

CBS champions Red Cross donations

CBS rolled out a plan in August to partner with the American Red Cross to put the “Do” in donation, with the goal of generating donations through blood, time or money. CBS said the work is in support of the organization’s widespread lifesaving endeavors, disaster relief efforts and more.

The campaign is designed to inspire communities of “do-ers” by helping drive awareness, unity and action among the network’s employees and viewers. Employees and viewers can go to www.redcross.org/cbs for specifics on how to get involved.

The multiplatform endeavor across CBS’ entertainment, news and stations, and sports divisions includes an array of on-air, digital and social content. Planned phases include:



- Red Cross-themed messages from various CBS talent, kicking off with stars Julian McMahon (FBI: MOST WANTED) and Daniela Ruah (NCIS: LOS ANGELES) – and continuing, in the coming months, with messages from talent from a variety of programs, including “FBI,” “YOUNG SHELDON,” “NCIS: THE EQUALIZER,” “NCIS: HAWAII,” “FBI: INTERNATIONAL,” and across CBS Sports and CBS News.

- A dedicated segment on THE TALK in October.
- Monthly volunteer and engagement opportunities, blood drives and corporate donation matching for ViacomCBS employees.
- The CBS Sports Classic College Basketball Tournament in December, which will celebrate the partnership by encouraging college students’ involvement.
- Customizable on-air and social content provided to CBS owned-and-operated stations and affiliates to bring the campaign to life in the individual markets.
- Sharable Instagram and Facebook stickers and borders for celebration.

New hires bring fresh energy, talent

We are thrilled to announce Sara Cease’s promotion as our new regional Service to the Armed Forces and International Services director. Sara has been serving as interim director and fills the vacancy left by Anthony Trimarco after his promotion to the North Central Division Service to the Armed Forces and International Services director.

Sara joined the Idaho-Montana region four years ago as the Service to the



Sara

Armed Forces and International Services manager. She has dedicated her career to supporting military members, their families and children.

Prior to joining the Red Cross, Sara was the Lead Child & Youth Program coordinator, first in Nebraska, and then in Montana. She is right at home working with volunteers, service members, or commanders. She has been known to crawl around on the floor with military kids. Sara is also extremely customer service-focused and

actively works to build relationships.

Sara, who lives in Helena, serves on the Montana, Lewis & Clark, Joining Community Forces initiative and teaches suicide prevention and resilience training in schools. When Sara is not working, she is a skilled photographer and can be found exploring Big Sky Country with her husband, Jake.

WELCOME, ANDREA

We would also like to introduce our new direct services program manager, Andrea Vlassis-Zahn.

Andrea joins the American Red Cross with more than 15 years of experience in project and event planning, volunteer and business management, community development, marketing and data analysis.

She comes to us from the Idaho Department of Commerce, where she held positions on the Business Attraction, International and Broadband Office teams, managing state and international economic development programs, grants and projects.

Prior to her work with the state, Andrea worked for the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce, organizing and



Andrea

leading community outreach and business engagement, along with managing the volunteer ambassador program.

Andrea spent time as a volunteer with Red Cross during the 2000s, most impactfully during Hurricane Katrina, and more recently as a disaster action team member.

She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2018 from Boise State University and holds an Associate of Arts in general business from the College of Western Idaho.

Andrea is originally from Happy Valley, Ore., but has called Boise home for the last 20 years. She and her husband, a Montana native, have one daughter and love spending time outdoors, traveling and experiencing new cultures around the world.