A BIG umbrella

When the emergency sirens sounded in Lame Deer, Jacklyn Littlebird knew it was time for her, her adult children and her 21 grandchildren 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 planned to head to a campground. But on their way out of town, they heard news that...
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).

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 or call 800-493-8778.

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-hour shifts.

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.

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.

Emergency shortage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Needles:

Emergency shortage

DONATED TO HELP SAVE LIVES

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.
New hires bring fresh energy, talent

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 analytics.

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 and grants.

Prior to her work with the state, Andrea worked for the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce, organizing and 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 out-doors, traveling and experiencing new cultures around the world.

CBS champions Red Cross donations

- 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 stations and affiliates to bring the campaign to life in the individual markets.
- Shareable Instagram and Facebook stickers and borders for celebration.

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 Armed Forces and International Services manager. She has dedicated her professional 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, at command centers. 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 Forces committees and teach- es 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

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

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 “doers” by helping drive awareness, unity and action among fans, employees and viewers. Employees and viewers can go to www.redcross.org/cbs for specific instructions 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: INTER- NATIONAL,” and across CBS Sports and CBS News.

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A Red Cross volunteer and disaster responder Sue Hawthorne said it was a sense of relief when they realized they were there to help them.

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She said.

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.

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New hires bring fresh energy, talent

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