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Vicky is on the Disaster Action Team in Ada County and acts as a supervisor and coordinator. She is the regional lead for recovery, and oversees the recovery team. In addition, Vicky can be counted on to be at events to support Service to the Armed Forces.

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It’s mission card inventory time again

To ensure data are comparable, it is vital that all reporting is for cards in the same region and those around him that shows why he is the Montana Volunteer of the Year. Not only has he given 650 hours of service, but he regularly goes above and beyond to help others.

A few years ago during a particularly snowy winter, Tom was concerned about the safety of a vehicle that was not winter-ready. Tom purchased snow tires for the van and donated them to the Red Cross so that staff and volunteers could safely transport life-saving blood product through hazardous driving conditions!

It’s Tom’s love for the Red Cross and the love around him that shows why he is the Montana Volunteer of the Year. Congrats to all of our winners.

Shelters need folks to step up

Training videos are highlighted below, and fellow volunteers continue to gather virtually to hang out. This week read about the Position of the Month. Maintaining a trained and ready volunteer workforce allows for quick, efficient disaster response. Check out what is needed.

NEEDED: DISASTER SHELTER VOLUNTEERS. We are preparing for another extremely busy disaster season. This year’s wildfire outlook is already very active and dangerous because of the severe drought and dry woodlands across the West. We need help.

Disaster Shelter Volunteers (Supervisory roles available to those with previous deployment experience.)

1. Shelter Service Associate Volunteer responsibilities: In-person shelter support to assist with reception, registration, feeding, dormitory, information collection, and other vital tasks to help those we serve.

2. Health Services Service Associate Volunteer responsibilities: Health professionals are needed to help provide hands-on care, health education, health assessments, and additional health-related support.

It’s time for the quarterly inventory of client assistance and mission cards. Thank you in advance for your help in making the Red Cross stronger in your community.

We will compile a “snapshot” of the location of cards in our region on one specific date only—Aug. 31—using an online form as in the past. The online reporting form will only be open Sept. 1—8. Please note the cards you have on Aug. 31 and report that, even if that information changes because you use cards during the open reporting window that follows.

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Evacuees: Help pours in

who worked with us,” said Michal Delgado, one of six Red Cross volun-
teer disaster responders in Lake County. “The churches, the food pantries and
the individuals who showed up with cars loaded with stuff. They would ask
‘what do you need?’ and we would ask
for water or towels and then everything
would just show up. It was amazing.”

The Red Cross team also went the extra mile to accommodate clients’ needs. A woman who uses a heart
monitor was given her own private area
with a power outlet for her medical
device. It also made it easier for staff to
check in on her. Several elderly women
were staying at the shelter by them-
selves, and the Red Crossers made sure
they had the support they needed.

There were even some moments of
celebration amidst the worry and uncer-
tainty that comes with disaster. A fami-
ly of nine staying at the shelter celebrat-
ed a 50th birthday with a small party,
and the Red Cross team was able to find
them some private space where they
could be together.

“They brought a birthday cake and
everything, and they were very appre-
ciative,” Michal said.

The team on the ground also got
support from other Red Cross volun-
teers from across the region.

A relatively new Red Crosser, Jackie
Orum from Emmett, Idaho, raised her
hand and made the trip to Polson. This
was her first assignment in a Red Cross
shelter.

“I was able to sit with one client –
you could just tell she needed someone
to talk to – and wholeheartedly listen
and give her my attention,” Jackie said.

“These are human beings who have a
lot on their minds wondering if their
homes were still there. If I was in their
shoes, that’s how I would want to be
reated.”

With her background as a certified
nursing assistant, Jackie was also able
to help with clients’ medical needs.

When an elderly woman with diabetes
wasn’t feeling well, she was able to
help check her blood sugar.

“I was a hands-on person who has
always cared about the people around
me,” she said. “I was glad I was there to
help our somebody else in need.”

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte and
Montana Red Cross Board Chair Craig
Stabellek even paid a visit to the shelter
to thank volunteers.

“This is what you do to help your
neighbors,” Michal said. “It doesn’t
matter if the disaster is big or small, you
just walk with them and help them
process their way through it.”

About a week after he had to flee his
home in the wee hours of the morning,
Robert Strehlow also celebrated a birth-
day. And he got the best present ever –
the opportunity to return to his cabin
and the four acres it sits on and see that
it was all still intact.

“Everything turned out pretty good,”
he said. “Everybody did a good job, I
would say, and it’s nice to know you
have someone looking out for you.”

Fires prompt huge response

When a pair of wildfires threatened
several communities in southeastern
Montana last month, the Red Cross
was there to help. Staff and volunteers
decided to drive from their homes.
More than 30 volunteers and
staff from across the region assisted
with the Red Cross response to the
Richard Spring and Lame Deer fires.

Red Cross partnered with Northern Cheyenne and Crow nations to provide
more than 358 overnight stays at shel-
ters in Busby and the Crow Agency and
served more than 3,200 meals and
snacks. Two emergency response vehi-

BECOME A RED CROSS SHELTER VOLUNTEER

Last year, the Red Cross of Idaho and Montana pro-
vided immediate emergency assistance to
1,500 people after wildfires and other disasters.
We could use your help.

Become a Red Cross disaster responder and help
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emergency. If you’re interested, send us an email to
IDMT.Recruiting@redcross.org or call 406-493-8778.
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