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## Make safety a priority this year

If you haven't already made a New Year's resolution, the Greater Carolinas Chapter is here to help.

Try this 12-month guide to safety:

**January:** Make a plan so that in the event of a disaster — like an ice storm — you and your family will be ready.

**February:** Learn fire safety. Make sure your home's fire alarms are working properly.

**March:** Take a CPR/First Aid/AED Course with the American Red Cross.

**April:** Learn how to care for your pet with the Red Cross Pet First Aid course.

**May:** As the weather turns warm, you'll probably head to the ocean or local watering hole. Learn Basic Water Rescue with the Red Cross.

**June:** National Safety Month. Make it a priority to see that one of your friends or family

members is trained in CPR/First Aid/AED.

**July:** We love to celebrate Independence Day with fireworks and barbecues. Learn the importance of safety and follow necessary precautions.

**August:** Heat stroke can be fatal. Learn the warning signs and how to protect yourself from a dangerous situation.

**September:** Many of us will vacation Labor Day weekend. Take a Red Cross First Aid Kit with you on your travels.

**October:** Trick-or-treat! Halloween is a good time to teach

children tips for having a fun and safe holiday.

**November:** Give thanks this year — the Red Cross is able to provide courses at an affordable rate because of our generous donors.

**December:** Holiday parties present a good opportunity to do the right thing: don't drink and drive. Make a plan ahead of time to get home safely.



The schedule for January-June 2009 health and safety courses is now online: [www.redcrosshelps.org](http://www.redcrosshelps.org)

## From the CEO: A new year at the Red Cross

It's 2009. Can you believe it? The year 2008 held its share of trials for the Greater Carolinas Chapter: a scorching summer forced us to open a school gym to provide relief from the heat, and a number of tropical storms, including one that flooded the Doral and Cavalier apartments in Charlotte.

There were also bright spots: the honor of being named the state disaster coordinating chapter and the launching of a new service in our transportation program.

Through all of our ups and downs, we are a team, working to take care of the most vulnerable in our community.

Your involvement remains steadfast and constant, and we are so grateful.

Thank you for your time and money, and we look forward to another year working with you!



Pamela Jensen



American Red Cross  
Greater Carolinas Chapter

# Volunteering comes naturally for instructor

Ellen Bacon volunteers with the Health and Safety Department of the American Red Cross, Greater Carolinas Chapter. Her duties include teaching the following classes: CPR, AED (automated external defibrillator) and First Aid.

She has volunteered with the Red Cross for 25 years. Outside the Red Cross, Ellen also volunteers with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters, where she is a mentor to a "Little." Ellen works as a legal nurse consultant and enjoys reading and traveling with her son, Matthew.

## What motivated you to get involved at the American Red Cross?

I became an instructor in college. I feel CPR is a very worthwhile skill everyone

should know.

## What made you want to volunteer at the American Red Cross versus other organizations?

When I first started volunteering, it wasn't about the Red Cross, but the more I volunteered, the more I liked the organization and its philosophies, so I stayed with them.

## What is the most rewarding aspect of volunteering?

It is knowing that I am teaching potential



Ellen Bacon

life-saving skills.

Now that AED is part of the curriculum for CPR, I feel even more passionate about educating people.

An AED could save the life of someone very close to me, so I want everyone to know about them and feel comfortable using them.

## What is your most memorable experience volunteering with the Red Cross?

After teaching a CPR class, some students went out to lunch and helped a restaurant patron who was choking.

## How has volunteering made a difference in your life?

I've been doing it so long now it's just a natural part of my life.

**Want to volunteer with us? E-mail [MartinHope@usa.redcross.org](mailto:MartinHope@usa.redcross.org) or call 704.347.4628.**

## AmeriCorps team gears up for MLK Day activities

People often equate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with great skills of oration and motivation; others think about the third week in January where they have one day off work.

During the 1950s and '60s, Dr. King recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals. That's why on Jan. 19, in honoring Dr. King, the AmeriCorps Team will dedicate that day as a "day ON."

AmeriCorps reserves this day as a time to come together to improve our community, strengthening the very vision Dr. King had for his fellow men and women.

We are truly encompassing the belief that we can change a life, starting with our own.

"It can be discouraging when I see Dr. King's vision of service fall to naught. That's why I am more than excited to be of service Jan. 19," said England Simpson, AmeriCorps member.



England Simpson (second from left), LeSharne Blount (third from left), Kim Mosley (second from right) and DeNeak Chapman (right) have been working with fellow AmeriCorps member Aisha Ramos-Foote on MLK Day.

### AmeriCorps MLK Jr. activities

- Join us on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., as we provide disaster education at the Statesville Civic Center during the Health and Cultural Fair.
- On Monday, Jan. 19, cheer us on at the MLK Day Parade in Charlotte. Then join us that afternoon at the Charlotte Bobcats game at the Time Warner Arena.
- Help us distribute information to your neighbors. Dedicate Jan. 19 as a day of change, of hope and create the change YOU desire to see.
- For more information, contact England Simpson at [SimpsonE@usa.redcross.org](mailto:SimpsonE@usa.redcross.org).

# Davidson College helps fund measles initiative

Across the globe, more than 3.6 million lives have been saved largely through the ongoing work of the American Red Cross Measles Initiative. Annual measles deaths fell worldwide by 74 percent, from an estimated 750,000 deaths in 2000 to 197,000 in 2007

The Greater Carolinas Chapter plays a significant role to ensure the success of this program through its community outreach and fundraising activities. Youth and young adults are particularly active, energized by the idea that it costs less than one dollar to protect a child.

**Want to help?**  
To learn how you can support the program, visit [www.redcrosshelps.org](http://www.redcrosshelps.org).

The Davidson College Red Cross Club raised nearly \$150 for this cause last month, which means 150 children were protected from measles.

The Measles Initiative is a partnership between the American Red Cross, the

United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Foundation (UN Foundation), UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Volunteers for Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world have been instrumental in mobilizing parents to get their children vaccinated as well as raising much-needed funds.

Even with the progress so far, there is more work to be done. Every day, 540 children die from measles, many of them are younger than 5 years old.



Red Cross staff and volunteers dressed in Red for the Davidson Christmas Parade.

## Update: National Day of Giving

Dec. 13 was declared the National Day of Giving for the American Red Cross. Across the United States, Red Cross supporters pounded the pavement to raise awareness of and funds for the organization.

Here in the Greater Carolinas Chapter, staff and volunteers joined forces to collect money and hand out information on the Red Cross.

A big thanks to those who helped — we couldn’t do what we do without you!

## In your Facebook!

With 18,582 supporting votes, the American Red Cross placed first among eight non-profit organizations in the Western Union Foundation’s Our World Gives Campaign.

On Dec. 5, the Western Union Foundation visited national headquarters to present a \$50,000 check for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

Thank you to everyone who voted for the Red Cross and helped spread the word about our participation in Our World Gives.



**American Red Cross**

Greater Carolinas Chapter



## American Red Cross

Greater Carolinas Chapter

### American Red Cross - Greater Carolinas Chapter

With offices in Charlotte, Lake Norman  
and Statesville

Charlotte: (704) 347.8224

Lake Norman: (704) 664.2500

Statesville: (704) 873.9751

Have news for us? Shoot us an e-mail at  
[meierk@usa.redcross.org](mailto:meierk@usa.redcross.org)

**The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.**



## Calendar — January events

**Blood Drives:** For a comprehensive list of our blood drives, visit the site [www.redcrosshelps.org](http://www.redcrosshelps.org).

**Club Red:** Club Red is a social networking group for young professionals interested in volunteering and helping their community through the Red Cross. Club Red will have its first meeting of

the year at 7 p.m. Jan. 7 at Morehead Street Tavern. All are welcome. For more information, contact Kate Meier at [MeierK@usa.redcross.org](mailto:MeierK@usa.redcross.org).

**MLK Jr. Day:** The AmeriCorps team for the Red Cross has several activities planned to celebrate a Day ON of service: The AmeriCorps team will provide

disaster education at the Statesville Civic Center during the Health and Cultural Fair Saturday, Jan. 17, from 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

On Monday, Jan. 19, you can cheer us on at the MLK Day Parade in Charlotte, and then join us that afternoon at the Bobcats game at the Time Warner Arena.

# Join us for our “Change a Life” tour

We’ve all heard it before. Someone asks where you work, donate or volunteer. We say “The American Red Cross!”

And then the inevitable happens: “Oh, I donate blood all the time!” Yes, yes, so do we.

However, we long to ask this person if they know about the transportation program or the disaster services. Do they know the range of Health and Safety classes?

Hopefully, as a Red Crosser, you invite them to join you at a monthly tour of our organization, the “Change A Life” tour. By attending this tour, you and others can become fully

### Change a life ...



Invite family, friends and colleagues to our Greater Carolinas Red Cross tour

e-mail [ogburnd@usa.redcross.org](mailto:ogburnd@usa.redcross.org) for more information

... starting with your own

aware of the programs the Red Cross community works hard to provide.

When you and your guest leave a tour and the American Red Cross is brought up in future conversation, they will be able to discuss heater meals, the ERV, Babysitter’s Training courses and describe in detail the important passengers who travel in Red Cross vehicles.

Join us for a tour and invite your friends and colleagues, family members and strangers!

To find out more, visit [www.redcrosshelps.org](http://www.redcrosshelps.org), e-mail Dan Ogburn at [OgburnD@usa.redcross.org](mailto:OgburnD@usa.redcross.org) or call 704.347.8238.