

Your Red Cross

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“The door that nobody else will go in ... seems always to swing open widely to me.”

- Clara Barton

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spotlight 2

Your Time 2

Your Money 2

DAT update 3

Donations 3

Pompeii 4

Calendar 4

Red Cross assists with disaster relief

The Greater Carolinas Chapter of the American Red Cross has had a very busy few weeks:

- After the flooding at the Doral/Cavalier apartments Aug. 27, we have provided more than 300 people (and counting) with financial assistance.
- We have accommodated nearly a dozen people with our Hurricane Gustav evacuee shelter, five of whom spent the night the first night the shelter was open. We deployed four staff members and volunteers to the Gulf Coast to assist with these efforts. Executive Assistant Brunetta Franklin has been keeping a blog of her experiences as she heads into her THIRD week working in the Gulf Coast. View her blog on our chapter's Web site.
- Twelve Greater Carolinas Chapter volunteers have been deployed to the Gulf for Hurricane Ike.
- Fundraising efforts for hurricane relief are in full swing as the Red Cross has launched a \$100 million appeal.

To keep up to date on the GCC's involvement in disaster



Volunteer drivers Joe Getlein and Art Mooney prepare the ECRV for its trip to Atlanta.

relief, visit our Web site at greatercarolinasredcross.org.

**For disaster-related fundraising, see Page 2
For updates on our Statesville and Lake Norman
offices disaster response, see Page 3**

From the desk of the CEO: Disasters

We are experiencing our first busy hurricane season since Katrina in 2005.

And what a ride so far!

As I write this, there is an evacuation underway of another one million people from the gulf coast of Texas as Ike threatens the area.

Evacuation shelters are being readied. Our evacuation just a



**Pamela
Jefsen**

couple of weeks ago was the largest in United States history – 2 million people in advance of Gustav. I would like to personally thank all the Red Crossers – staff and volunteers who have supported our work during this season so far.

Time after time I see you sacrifice your own comfort, plans, time, and energy so that your neighbors can be served.

It is an extraordinary experience to watch you work.

We have now launched a \$100 million national disaster relief campaign that will keep us busy for awhile.

The good news is that these are the times when Americans show their love, compassion, generosity, and solidarity – and we are at our best. Thanks for your continued support during these times of great challenges.

Volunteer spotlight: Linda Fry



Volunteer Linda Fry has been a volunteer with the Red Cross since 1974!.

Linda Fry has been a volunteer for the American Red Cross since 1974!

On her second day as a Red

Cross volunteer, an F3 tornado hit the country, and she spent the next 11 days

assisting at the service center! After moving to the area from Pennsylvania, she currently helps at the Lake Norman office.

Linda is very active in Disaster Services as a Disaster Services Instructor. She recently spent the night as shelter supervisor in the overnight shelter for clients affected by the Doral/ Cavalier apartments flooding. When the need for transportation volunteers was requested, Linda was willing to volunteer more of her time to become a Client

Driver and agreed to become a Defensive Driving Instructor.

Linda is very active outside the Red Cross, she loves "squeezing" her 6-month-old grandson, going out to lunch or a movie with friends, reading, cooking new recipes and going to a variety of activities sponsored by the Newcomer's Group. We are so privileged to be in the company of a great person.

Linda: Thank you so much for your valuable time and dedication!

"It is because of our volunteers that the Red Cross continues to serve our communities. Volunteers are the life line of the Red Cross."

Your time - volunteer opportunities

Disaster

The American Red Cross is recruiting volunteers who have been trained in the Red Cross system to assist with hurricane disaster relief.

Transportation

Earn the smile and appreciation of a homebound

neighbor by providing transportation once a week to their medical appointments.

Notes:

- On-the-job training.
- Volunteer opportunities

in Mecklenburg and South Iredell Counties

- Four hour shifts Monday through Friday (8a.m to 5p.m)
- All drivers use Red Cross vehicles.

For more information on volunteering, please contact Hope Martin: 704.378.4628 or martinhope@usa.redcross.org

Your money - GCC donation opportunities

The Greater Carolinas Chapter has been serving Mecklenburg and Iredell counties for more than 90 years.



The Financial Development Department has been actively reaching out to major donors requesting financial donations to address the local flooding from Tropical Storm Faye and national Disaster Relief Funding associated with Hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike.

Department staff are also careful to point out the media appeal

for funding of our local chapter that took place just prior to the severe weather appeals.

Donors are requested to go to www.redcrosshelps.org; call **704-347-8271**; or send donations to:

Greater Carolinas Red Cross
P.O. Box 60766
Charlotte, NC 28260-0766

Children give to the Red Cross this summer

This summer has seen its share of disasters as hurricanes ripped through our coastlines, leaving thousands without food, clothing or shelter.

The American Red Cross responds to disasters big and small, from Hurricane Hanna to house fires. Using donations, the Red Cross is able to provide relief for those affected by such disasters.

Several local pre-teens used their summer this year to contribute to those efforts.

Solteria Ross, a 9-year-old from Wingate Elementary, started her own "Giving Bear Foundation."

Using fliers and word-of-mouth, Solteria coordinated several toy drives at her school. In mid-July, she and her mother, Ramona, dropped off 40 teddy bears and dolls and 80 toy cars to the Greater Carolinas Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Solteria asked that the toys be given to children who had been involved in disasters like home flooding or fires.

When asked why she spends her time collecting



Emily (left) and Megan donated the money from their lemonade stand to the Greater Carolinas Chapter.

Solteria and her mom, Ramona, pose with animals they donated to the Red Cross.

toys, she said she wants other kids like herself to "smile like I do."

And Solteria isn't the only child helping other children.

Megan and Emily, both 12, spent one hot summer afternoon selling lemonade in their neighborhood. The act itself is nearly commonplace in suburban areas during the summer

— but Megan and Emily served lemonade with a twist: all money they took in, they gave out to the Greater Carolinas Chapter of the American Red Cross.

"The Red Cross helps everyone," Emily said.

The girls, who have been friends since diapers, have held many lemonade stands.

Megan says they rarely keep the money, usually donating it to a local church.

"But we've never made as much as we did for the Red Cross one," she said, noting many people made donations without taking lemonade.

Megan and Emily chose to donate to the Red Cross because they said they recognize that by helping the Red Cross, they are helping their neighbors.

"People said that \$29 wasn't enough money to donate," Megan said of their earnings from the lemonade stand. "But I told them every penny counts."

As Hurricane Ike approaches the Gulf Coast, the American Red Cross estimates disaster relief this summer will cost upward of \$70 million.

Contributions like those of Solteria, Emily and Megan may not have been large, but, as Megan said, "every penny counts."

For more information on how you can help, visit www.redcrosshelps.org.

Statesville, Lake Norman offices updates

A special

thanks to our

disaster

services

volunteers who

have given so

much of their

time during

this busy

season.

The **Statesville office** had a total of three disaster responses for the month of August. All were single family house fires. All three families were given assistance with food and two of the cases were assisted with clothing. All three families are doing well with their recovery process and the Emergency Services Department is following up with the families to ensure that all their emergency needs are met.

The **Lake Norman office** responded to one disaster call in the month of August. The family's roof caved in, in two areas of the home due to the torrential rain Aug.

28. The Red Cross assisted the clients by providing a hotel and money for food while the family makes repairs to the home.

The branch offices would like to also welcome the newest member of the team, LeSharne Blount, AmeriCorps NPRC member, who will be working in Disaster and Youth Services serving the Iredell and North Mecklenburg counties.

Also joining the GCC:

- England Simpson, who is the communications and marketing coordinator;
- DeNeak Chapman, who is the CDE coordinator;

- Aisha Ramos-Foote, who is the youth coordinator;
- Zachary Perkins, who is the DAT coordinator;
- Kim Mosley, who is the disaster volunteer coordinator; and

In September: There are many disaster training classes scheduled at the Charlotte office and Troutman Fire Department. If you need a schedule or would like to register, e-mail johnsonkatri@usa.redcross.org.

Branch offices are making new contacts with schools and youth programs to schedule education programs for the school year.



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

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 — September events

Blood Drives: For a comprehensive list of our blood drives, visit greatercarolinasredcross.org.

Club Red events: Club Red is a social networking group for young professionals interested in volunteering and helping their community through the Red Cross.

On Sept. 17, the group will meet again at 6:30 p.m. at the offices at 2425 Park Road.

All interested young professionals are welcome. For more information, e-mail Jennifer Underwood at jmufe968@email.cpsc.edu.

Community events: The Greater

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Carolinas Chapter is participating in "Touch a Truck," which is a family festival in Huntersville.

The event features exciting vehicles for children to explore, such as fire trucks, police vehicles and garbage trucks. The Red Cross will bring an

emergency response vehicle and an emergency communications response vehicle.

Touch a Truck is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 21 in North Mecklenburg Park in Huntersville.

The \$3 entry fee from this event goes toward supporting cancer research.

Disaster Training Courses: There are many disaster training classes scheduled at the Charlotte office and Troutman Fire Department.

If you need a schedule or would like to register, send an e-mail to johnsonkatri@usa.redcross.org.

Travel back to "A Day in Pompeii" with the Greater Carolinas Chapter

The GCC is partnering with Discovery Place for "A Day in Pompeii."

"A Day in Pompeii" at Discovery Place (301 N. Tryon St.) runs through Jan. 4. The exhibition depicts the everyday life in the ancient Roman city, complete with room-size frescoes, jewelry

and marble sculptures.

The exhibition also will feature several American Red Cross seminars on disaster preparedness.

The Greater Carolinas Chapter will present these seminars at Discovery Place at 2 and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday,

Aug. 10; at 2 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12; and at 2 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

To obtain a coupon for \$2 off admission to the exhibition, send an e-mail to Kate Meier at meierk@usa.redcross.org or call 704.347.8224.