

Relief efforts in Gulf Coast continue

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Though the news reports on TV may have lost focus on the Gulf Coast destruction, the Greater Carolinas Chapter has done anything but.

Twelve staff and volunteers from the Charlotte area have been deployed to the region, with 21 total coming from our chapter.

The branch offices deployed nine people to disaster relief operations going in Texas. Two of the volunteers are from the Lake Norman office and the remaining are from Statesville. LeSharne Blount

and Aisha Ramos-Foote, AmeriCorps members, deployed to Texas this week.

GCC staff and volunteers along the Coast are working at shelters, driving emergency response vehicles, working with the technology department and feeding clients and volunteers.

Relief for Hurricanes Ike and Gustav is expected to continue for the next few months along the Gulf Coast, and the GCC will provide additional volunteers, staff and supplies as they are needed.



Rick Schou, director of Emergency Services for the Greater Carolinas Chapter, is staying in a tent in Beaumont, Texas, as he assists with relief efforts. Read about his experiences in his blog on the chapter's Web site.

Staff blogs about experiences in Gulf Coast: www.redcrosshelps.org



Jerry Gutierrez sits on his cot at the Red Cross shelter at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

9,672 ...

The number of hours Greater Carolinas Chapter staff and volunteers have spent working on relief while in the Gulf Coast

\$175,000 ...

Roughly the amount of money the GCC has spent on local relief efforts after Tropical Storm Fay

\$100 million ...

The amount of money the U.S. government on Sept. 30 granted the Red Cross for disaster relief

5 ...

The number of minutes it takes to make a donation to the Red Cross at www.redcrosshelps.org

Transitions and changes around the GCC

The Greater Carolinas Chapter of the American Red Cross has a steadfast commitment to the Charlotte, Mooresville/Lake Norman and Statesville areas. Despite a shortfall in contributions and funding, our chapter has been able to provide vital services to our residents at little to no cost to them. Our mission is to continue to offer these programs to ensure safety, preparedness and recovery in our community.

Recently, we launched a fund-raising appeal in hopes of generat-

ing revenue to offset our deficit as well as cover unforeseen costs, such as the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Fay last month. Though many donors in our community came forward to support the Red Cross, the amount raised was only a small percentage of what was needed.

In order to maintain our programs and services, we have had to make a few transitions. Staffing changes are regrettably a byproduct of a poor economy and a lack of funding. We have also tightened

our budget in several areas.

One side effect of our financial situation will involve a slight change with the Statesville office. The blood services region will maintain their offices in the facility, and the chapter will use its office space as needed.

We will have signage pointing clients in the right direction should the staff currently at the office be unable to answer their questions.

The Greater Carolinas Chapter will continue to meet with disaster clients and volunteers from this

office, and Health and Safety classes will still operate out of this office. There will be 24-hour coverage of the Statesville area, which will be coordinated in part through a phone tree. The number for 24-hour help is (704) 873-9751.

Our chapter has taken great care during this difficult time to ensure we are able to continue to serve our community. The help of our staff and volunteers has been invaluable. If you have questions or concerns, please call (704) 376.1661.

Volunteer spotlight: Kathleen Eid Heberle

Kathleen Eid Heberle, a disasters volunteer and administrator of Health Services, teaches nursing classes at UNC Charlotte and attends various medical conferences around the state.



She always includes ARC Disaster Health Services training in her courses at the university in an effort to recruit young people to

be volunteers.

She also takes ARC materials to medical conferences and recruits nurses every chance she gets.

There are several chapters in North Carolina who have benefited from Kathleen's efforts around the state. For the past couple years, Kathleen has facilitated the county planning effort to address response policies and procedures for

our local special needs population.

Currently, she is working on a relationship between the Medical Reserve Corp and the ARC Disaster Health Services groups for disaster response.

Kathleen Eid Heberle is a great asset to the Greater Carolinas Chapter.

Thank you, Kathleen, for dedicating your time to our chapter.

*"I just want other kids to be able to smile like I do."
— Solteria Ross, 9, on why she chose to donate to the Greater Carolinas Chapter*

Your donations: Did you know ... \$10 can buy three heated meals or two blankets

\$25 will provide baby food for a week for a family staying in a Red Cross shelter after losing their home

\$50 will provide two prescription replacements for someone who lost medicine during a flood, hurricane or home fire

\$100 will provide enough gas for a Red Cross vehicle for a week to take patients without transportation to medical appointments – for free

\$1,000 will provide a family with essential clothing, beds, household items, emergency shelter and school supplies after a devastating home fire

You can make a donation online at www.redcrosshelps.org

Blood, platelet donation promotion: Give a little, buy a lot

Each time a blood donor gives the gift of life, he or she gets something back – the knowledge that in taking the time to donate one unit of blood, they may have saved up to three lives.

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, blood and platelet donors will get even more back when they are entered to win a \$1,000 gift card courtesy of the American Red Cross.

The “Give a Little, Buy a Lot!” campaign is aimed at increasing blood and platelet donations.

Anyone who gives blood or



platelets through the promotion period will be automati-

cally entered to win one of three gift cards.

“This is a critical time of year for blood and platelet donations,” said Robert F. Fechner, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross Carolinas Blood Services Region.

The American Red Cross Carolinas Blood Services Region provides life-saving blood to 103 hospitals and needs approximately 1,600 people to give blood and platelets each weekday to meet hospital demand.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE LIFE (448-3543) or visit redcross-blood.org.

Help our heroes campaign

The Statesville and Lake Norman offices are in need of help with their Hometown Heroes Campaign Committee. This is approximately a four-month commitment.

The volunteers will be responsible for finding people and/or groups (schools, churches, neighborhood associations, etc.) that will either write a check or will raise \$1,000 for the local Red Cross.

In the past, we have had elementary schools that have completed a penny quilt; Davidson College had a dance-a-thon; a neighborhood had a large community yard sale; Lady of the Lake Cruise; wine tasting, etc.

The committee meets in December for training and ideas. Most of the activities take place in February and March. For more information, call the Lake Norman Office at (704) 664.2500.

Statesville, Lake Norman offices update

The Statesville office was present at the Emergency Preparedness Fair on Sept. 20 at the Signal Hill Mall, where disaster preparedness information was distributed and the public was briefed on how to Be Red Cross Ready for disasters.

On Sept. 21, the Lake Norman office brought the Emergency Communications Resource Vehicle to the Touch a Truck Event at North Mecklenburg Park in Huntersville. Kids and their families got to sit inside the vehicle and learn how to be prepared for disasters and emergency situations.

During that weekend, more than 300 families were reached and educated about disaster preparedness.

Annual golf tournament planning in full swing

The Greater Carolinas Chapter of the American Red Cross is teaming up with local businesses to host its 2008 Annual Charity Golf Tournament.

The all-day event tees off with a shotgun start (captain's choice) at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 6, at the Olde Sycamore

Golf Plantation (7500 Olde Sycamore Drive, Charlotte).

A silent auction, live auction and various contests will highlight the day with chances to win prizes.

“Last year, we raised nearly \$60,000 through this tournament, and it was funneled right

back to Charlotte-area residents through the Red Cross' programs and services,” said Pamela Jefsen, CEO of the Greater Carolinas Chapter.

To register, call (704) 643.3038.

To be a sponsor, call (704) 347.8352.

Some auction items:

- Teeth whitening package
- Autographed picture of Jack Nicklaus
- An “Arts” package
- A fishing trip



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 — October events

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

This year, the Carolina Blood Services Region will again participate in Scarowinds by hosting a blood drive at Carowinds in October. Also look to donate blood during the Zombie Walk Oct. 5. For more information, contact Debbie Estes at estesd@corp.usa.redcross.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 Oct. 7, Club Red will meet to

plan several upcoming events. All interested young professionals are welcome. For more information, e-mail Jennifer Underwood at jmufe968@email.cpc.edu.

Community events: The Greater Carolinas Chapter will host a disaster preparedness seminar in conjunction with Discovery Place's "A Day in Pompeii" exhibition. The seminars will be at 2 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12.

Fundraiser: The annual Red Cross charity golf tournament is Oct. 6 at the Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation. For more information, see Page 3 of this newsletter.

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.

Military Support: The Iredell County Military Support Group will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Landmark Church of God in Statesville. The group will work on planning the annual Veterans Dinner in November and plan the annual Candlelight Vigil held in December. For more information, send an e-mail to migits@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 Dis-

covery Place 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, send an e-mail to meierk@usa.redcross.org or call 704.347.8224.