



American Red Cross

# CROSSroads

Youth Volunteer Newsletter  
American Red Cross of Central Maryland

Spring 2002

## An Open Letter: Centennial High School Presents Banner to Red Cross

*Members of the Red Cross Club at Centennial High School support the mission of the Red Cross. The students recently celebrated Red Cross Month at their school.*

The Red Cross Club of Centennial High School would like to present its banner in celebration of Red Cross Month. A committee of club members constructed the banner after school from February 20 to February 23. Seniors Laura Goss and Kathleen Collins headed the artistic design, while Emily Cheng, Jessica Hoehn, Amelia Rubenstein, Megan Tiernan, Deepika Mittal, Julie Grufferman, Jenny Lee, Traci Eckhaus and Pat Harvey aided its banner production.



*Red Cross Club members at Centennial High School commemorate Red Cross Month with a creative banner.*

The Club designed the banner like a puzzle to emphasize the importance of teamwork in fulfilling the Red Cross mission. Each piece is linked to the others inextricably. Without each piece the banner would not be whole.

Without the dedication of individuals and their recognition of the purposes of the Red Cross, the organization would not be as successful as it is today. The Red Cross blood supply is replenished by donors in the community (represented by the giraffe). From disaster relief to training every citizen to be prepared for emergencies, the Red Cross is a vital force in the community.

The Red Cross is also a major fundraiser and contributor for humanitarian aid. The policies of neutrality (represented by the blindfolded stork balancing the scales) encourage a cooperative international atmosphere.



*The "lifeguard" turtle and the horse administering CPR to the toucan are symbols of the many life-saving services that the Red Cross provides.*

Lastly, the Red Cross has helped hundreds of youth discover their leadership ability (represented by the lion) and diversity (represented by the rainbow-colored animals). Its pledge to educate the youth of this nation to carry on its legacy is one that will ensure the success of its goals.

The Red Cross Club at Centennial High School hopes to aid the Central Maryland Chapter in carrying out its goals for life-saving, humanitarian aid, neutrality and leadership. We are proud to be a part of such a force of change. We are excited about learning lessons of charity, to aid in our social development.



*The depiction of the Saint Bernard represents the financial contributions to the disaster relief fund. The depiction of the stork represents one of the organization's fundamental principles, neutrality.*

### Check Your Red Cross Club Stats

Congratulations to the Red Cross Club at Westminster High School; they're just getting started!

**Student Leader:** Julia Twigg



**Top Advisor:** Mr. Keefer

**Club Meetings:** Once or twice a month

**Club Activities:** It is a new club, but they hope to raise money for AIDS orphans

Share the stats on your Red Cross Club. Contact [cfuss@arc-cmc.org](mailto:cfuss@arc-cmc.org)

## Youth Volunteer Making A Difference

By Nneka Benjamin

According to Katie Elizabeth Warner, "The best thing about my being 16 is showing people that teenagers can still make a difference through the Red Cross." Katie, a junior at C. Milton Wright High School in Bel Air, Maryland, is committed to leading, volunteering and participating in school events. She recently combined her school spirit and her dedication to Red Cross, when she founded and became president of the Red Cross Club at her high school.

*"The best thing about my being 16 is showing people that teenagers can make a difference through the Red Cross."*

"I started the Red Cross Club because I think I'm a leader," Katie said. "I love helping people and volunteering. I like being involved and the Red Cross has a lot to offer." Katie was instrumental in coordinating the March 2001 "Maryland to Kenya: School Chest Initiative." The program encouraged Maryland students to collect notebooks, pens, pencils and other school supplies for Kenyan youth.

In addition to earning service-learning hours, being a part of the Red Cross and meeting student leaders throughout the Central Maryland region, students who start Red Cross Clubs receive leadership training. Last summer, Katie participated in the Red Cross Annual Leadership Development Camp.

Katie called the experience "life changing" because of the lessons she learned and the people she met. "A lot of people have stereotypes of others, before they even know them," Warner said. "At camp, you are able to see that everyone has something in common, no matter their race or religion."

*"Her commitment to this organization is unwavering."*

*Carolyn Fuss, Red Cross  
Youth Services Specialist*

This year Katie is training to become an instructor for the Crime Avoidance program. She hopes to teach people how to be tough targets against crime.



*Katie Warner helps her community by volunteering her time and efforts at the Red Cross*

Although she is only 16, Katie is able to reflect on what she says is her greatest achievement- the journey of becoming who she is today. "I don't follow the same drum beat as everyone else," she said. Katie strives to be a good role model for her younger sister, Kristen, who has already joined clubs at her junior high school.

Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend presented Katie with the Service Star Award at the Maryland Student Service Alliance Conference on March 6. Her service was also recognized when the Red Cross named her Volunteer of the Month for March.

"Her commitment to this organization is unwavering," said Carolyn Fuss, the Red Cross Youth Services specialist who nominated Katie for monthly award.



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

## **A Local Student Designs Camp Logo**

By Nneka Benjamin

Sarah Gisriel, a sophomore at Towson High School, is the artist behind this summer's Leadership Development Camp (LDC) "Light Your Fire" logo. She began working on the design after her art teacher showed the class a flyer about the LDC 2002 logo contest. "I figured I would enter since I had an idea," she said.

Sarah designed different logos and submitted the one she liked best. With guidance from Youth Services staff, she refined her design into the winning logo. "We sent ideas back and forth," she said. "They gave me suggestions to improve my design and I worked off of those."



*Sarah Gisriel designed the Red Cross Leadership Development Camp 2002 logo.*

Although creating the logo was her first Red Cross project, Sarah is no stranger to art. "I became interested in art in the seventh grade," she said. "I went to Loch Raven Academy, a magnet school for art. Originally, I went for performing arts, but I switched to drawing." Years later, Sarah continues to take art classes at her high school.

*"I guess I got lucky."*

She was recently inducted into the National Art Honor Society. As one of four National Art

Honor Society officers, Sarah plans events and activities that the society will host. Last month, her school's chapter hosted an edible art exhibit.

Sarah takes an active interest in art and considers herself fairly experienced, but not an expert. In regards to her design becoming the logo for this summer's Leadership Development Camp, she said, "I guess I got lucky."



*Sarah's logo will be used throughout this summer's LDC campaign*

### **You Already Know What's in a Name: What's in a Logo?**

- The most visible form of identity for an organization or event.
- A unique idea, because no other organization or event has the same logo.
- It allows people to instantly recognize the organization or event.
- An organization or event must protect their logo because it is an important component to their image.

## THINK TANK

If you could design a logo to identify yourself, what would it look like?



Share your ideas by emailing Carolyn Fuss at [cfuss@arc-cmc.org](mailto:cfuss@arc-cmc.org).

## Theatre Students Empower Children Through the Arts

By Josh Luxenberg

In *Learn Not to Burn*, a theatrical presentation on fire safety, was created by Tony Tsendeas and the 11<sup>th</sup> grade ensemble at the Baltimore School for the Arts. The production began as an idea by three Red Cross volunteers who also attend the school. During our senior year, after a year in development, we took the show to the auditoriums, stages and -"gymnacafe-classitoriums" of the elementary schools of Baltimore City.

*"Once upon a time, in a kitchen just like yours...."*

When we started work on the project, none of us, including Tony, knew what we were going to do. Bill Clarke, Youth Services Manager of the Central Maryland Chapter Red Cross, provided us with the information that he thought we should convey to the audience; all we had to do was to create the show, and make it entertaining. We created four short scenes and then worked out some non-verbal a cappella beats as transitions between them.

We quickly discovered that comedy seemed to be the most memorable way to get our message across. But we also thought that it would be most effective to end the show on a more sober note, to bring home all the points we had made in the comic scenes.

One scene dealt with a grease fire in the kitchen. One of our actors is also a talented physical comedian, so we built the scene around her. She plays "Sandra", a young girl who is cooking when the grease fire starts. A narrator tells the story in the style of a fairy tale: "Once upon a time, in a kitchen just like yours...."

*"The audience absorbed every single danger and every single precaution that we presented."*

As the action progresses, Sandra makes more and more mistakes. By the end, her entire kitchen is on fire. The narrator pulls out a remote control and presses the "pause" button, saying "Let's take this back to the beginning and see it done right!" At this point, the actor plays the scene backwards, as if she were on videotape that was rewinding. Each time she comes to one of her mistakes, the scene is paused and the mistakes are explained. Then, the scene is replayed with Sandra doing the right thing, and it ends like a fairy tale: "Having not been burned alive that day, Sandra lived happily ever after."

After the shows, we always conducted a question and answer session with the students, to make sure that the points were communicated clearly. We wanted the show to be entertaining, but, of course, we did not want the message to get lost in the medium. Rarely did a student miss a point we were trying to make. The audience absorbed every single danger and every single precaution that we presented.

Not only that, but they enjoyed the show! The idea of using theatre to convey information practically predates the art form itself, a natural extension of storytelling and the reporting of the day's activities. The pleasure of the project for us, other than the immediate fun of performing, came from the direct feedback we received at the end of each show. We have been told, by some of the teachers, that it was the most professional and entertaining event of its type that they have ever seen.

More importantly, from our target audience, the students themselves, we heard many stories similar to this one: One girl was observed walking into the auditorium complaining about having to sit through some boring thing about fire safety.

But, as her mother told the school and the school later told us, she came home that night and re-enacted the entire show for her parents, right in her own kitchen. Now that's getting the message out.

## **Developing a Leader**

By Vickie Choe

Among the numerous activities organized by the Red Cross, the summer camp is one of its most recent ventures. The Red Cross kicked off its first Leadership Development Camp last summer. The camp hosted 28 delegates, organized by five coordinators and four counselors. Carolyn Fuss, Red Cross Youth Services Specialist, and Bill Clarke, Youth Services Manager, took on the task of leading and supervising the delegates.

*"Through the Red Cross, I had the most fun of my life, because the camp lasted for a week. But the memories will last for a lifetime."*

*Shomari Cromwell  
2001 LDC Delegate*

The camp was a success. Delegates participated in CPR and first aid training, crime awareness seminars, team building exercises and leadership training. Most of all, delegates, coordinators and counselors had a chance to learn about one another by sharing their backgrounds and talents during bonfires. They established new friendships with people during free time while they played basketball and volleyball, watched movies, or went swimming.

"The camp didn't tell you how to be a leader—it taught you how to be a leader. They taught you how to make your own service project instead of telling you to get involved in someone else's," said 2001 LDC delegate Elyse Ditzel.

Former LDC delegate Shomari Cromwell enjoyed the activities offered at the camp as well. "Through the Red Cross, I had the most fun of my life because the camp lasted for a week, but the memories will last for a lifetime. Although we had to learn about leadership and medicine, we had free time to shoot hoops and lift weights," he commented.

*"The camp didn't tell you how to be a leader—it taught you how to be a leader."*

*Elyse Ditzel  
2001 LDC delegate*

Camp coordinators and organizers are planning activities for this summer's camp. Meeting on a monthly basis, the group set up and designed a table display featuring information on the camp. Camp organizers recruited delegates at the Maryland State Service Alliance Conference and shared information about the leadership development camp and youth-oriented programs. The organizers are currently working on establishing training programs and events that they will present and execute at the camp.

*"I am having a blast planning this year's camp with a group of people that get work done and have fun at the same time."*

*Emily Aaron,  
head of the coordinators and  
organizers for the 2002 LDC  
camp*

"This year, I am privileged to work with a motivated, cooperative group. I am having a blast planning this year's camp with a group of people that get work done and have fun at the same time," said Emily Aaron, head of the coordinators and organizers for the 2002 LDC camp. "They constantly surprise me with their dedication and I think we will be very successful in what we plan to accomplish."

*"I hope that the camp will 'light the fire' of many local young people to make service a priority in their lives and show them that youth do have the power to create change."*

*Carolyn Fuss  
Director of Red Cross Leadership  
Development Camp*

Camp Director Carolyn Fuss is overseeing the work of the camp coordinators and organizers and plans to have 32 delegates attend the camp. "The student LDC planning committee is working very hard to make this year's camp a dynamic and fun leadership experience. I hope that the camp will 'light the fire' of many local young people to make service a priority in their lives and show them that youth do have the power to create change," explained Fuss.

This year's summer camp will cover topics such as CPR and first aid training, international humanitarian law, crime avoidance and blood and disaster services. The camp will incorporate life skills such as leadership training, communication, organization and marketing skills.

Delegates will have a chance to bond with others while hiking on trails, building campfires, swimming, and participating in team building activities. Most importantly, the delegates will create their own service project for their community to learn how to better the lives of others around them.

### **Leadership Development Camp 2002**

Be a part of a growing number of student leaders in the Central Maryland area. The Red Cross will host its annual Leadership Development Camp from July 22-26, 2002 at Skycroft Conference Center in Middletown, MD. To attend the camp you must be a Central Maryland resident entering 10th or 11th grade in the fall and have an interest in leadership and service. For more information contact Carolyn Fuss at 410-764-7000, ext. 7426 or by email at [cfuss@arc-cmc.org](mailto:cfuss@arc-cmc.org).

### **Central Maryland Chapter** **Youth Services**

The Red Cross offers leadership training to students (K through college) through a variety of programs including Leadership Development Camp, Refugee Youth Project, International projects and the Red Cross Players. Students can also get involved in Red Cross Clubs at their schools or universities and engage in Red Cross service-learning activities.

#### **For more information contact:**

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## **Red Cross Youth Services Mission Statement**

To inspire and empower Central Maryland youth through dynamic programs, creative opportunities to serve, and specialized leadership training. As a result, youth and young adults will realize the mission of the American Red Cross by participating in:

- Service learning
- School-based programs
- Leadership development
- International initiative
- Youth-driven emergency preparedness programs

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