



American Red Cross
of Central Maryland

March is Red Cross Month 2007

For more than 125 years, the American Red Cross has relied on everyday heroes who donate time, blood or money; heroes who help coordinate blood drives, heroes in one of more than 700 chapters across the country who tirelessly serve their community. Since Clara Barton created the organization in 1881, it has been largely dependent on the support of the American people. For the next 125 years and beyond, the Red Cross will meet the needs of the public by fostering volunteers who are professional, prepared and committed to the tradition of providing supreme service delivery to our communities.

Red Cross Month

- During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson ordered the American Red Cross to raise funds to support aid to the military and civilians affected by war as mandated by Congress. At that time, the American Red Cross set a goal of \$125 million and in less than six weeks donations totaled nearly \$146 million. This success caused the Red Cross to repeat the March drive during the remaining years of the war and to make it the occasion for annual membership and fund-raising efforts every since.
- As the honorary chairman of the Red Cross, in 1943 President Roosevelt was the first president to declare March as Red Cross Month.
- Each year since 1943, the president of the United States proclaims March as Red Cross Month.

Hometown Heroes Day

- This year during March is Red Cross Month, chapters across the country will designate a day to honor our dedicated volunteers; our hometown heroes. On Hometown Heroes Day, we will celebrate and acknowledge the contributions of the many heroes for their role in helping to build a better quality of life.
- Hometown Heroes Day serves as a day of recognition for the heroes in the community who give selflessly of themselves, in order to help others.
- Approximately 1.2 million people volunteer for the American Red Cross and volunteers make up 97% of all American Red Cross staff. Visit www.redcross.org for more information on volunteering.