



For more than 125 years, the mission of the American Red Cross has been to help Americans prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. We have a long and proven track record of immediate response to major disasters, both natural and human-caused.

Through the American Red Cross, people mobilize to help their neighbors. Nearly 1 million volunteers and 35,000 employees of the Red Cross, many from your communities, help provide these life-changing and often lifesaving services.

The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money and blood to do its work. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

Governed by volunteers and supported by voluntary donations, the Red Cross is a network of—

- More than 700 locally supported chapters.
- 8 regional service areas.
- 35 Blood Services regions.
- 9 Blood Services divisions.
- 61 Armed Forces Emergency Services stations.

The Red Cross provides a unique, community-based network focused on five major areas of service.

Helping Disaster Victims

People affected by disaster need to know that they have a place to stay, food to eat, and, if they need it, emotional support as they take the first steps to recovery.

Each year, the American Red Cross responds to more than 70,000 disasters nationwide. While the vast majority of these disasters are single-family and apartment home fires, the American Red Cross stands ready to support all affected in their immediate emergency needs. Additionally, the American Red Cross provides immediate support to first responders.

With expertise in meeting the human needs associated with disasters, we are integrated into state and local government agency disaster planning exercises and response efforts. We partner with local, state and federal governments; community organizations; and corporate supporters to provide emergency shelter, food and health and mental health services as well as short-term financial assistance to address basic human needs.

Teaching Lifesaving Skills

The American Red Cross helps make families and communities safer by teaching the skills needed to be prepared for disasters and emergencies. The “Be Red Cross Ready” initiative, an offshoot of this ongoing

preparedness and safety effort, encourages every organization, individual and family to take three actions now:

- 1. Get a kit.**
- 2. Make a plan.**
- 3. Be informed.**

More than 11 million people gain lifesaving skills—including first aid, CPR and the use of defibrillators—through their local Red Cross chapter every year. Our communities are safer because of Red Cross training in water safety, babysitting, elder-care and more.

Collecting, Testing and Supplying our Nation’s Blood

For more than 50 years, the American Red Cross has been committed to providing a safe and available blood supply to meet America’s blood needs. Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood. Thanks to the generosity of its almost 4 million blood donors, the American Red Cross is one of the largest blood suppliers in the United States.

Connecting the Armed Forces with their Families

Long separations caused by military service create special needs for military families. The Red Cross provides training and support to active-duty military members, National Guard and Reserve members, their families and veterans. We also offer emergency message services, using technology and personal contact to ensure service men and women receive emergency communications from their loved ones at home.

Partnering in International Services

The American Red Cross is one of more than 180 organizations based in nations around the world that are devoted to alleviating human suffering wherever it is found. The members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Federation) and the Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies, as well as the Magen David Adom – work together toward common goals during times of crisis or disaster.

As a national society, the American Red Cross works within this framework to help provide services for the world’s most vulnerable people. The American Red Cross is currently working with our partner Red Cross and Red Crescent societies on projects related to health, nutrition, water and sanitation and disaster preparedness throughout the world.