



RESPONDER

Mt. Baker Chapter Serving Whatcom County and Skagit Valley

Spring 2010

March Is Red Cross

Month American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

*No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another.
Thank you. —Author Unknown*

The Mt. Baker Chapter of the American Red Cross boasts an astounding 360+ volunteers, a community of donors, and 8 staff members which all convene to provide disaster services, health and safety training, and emergency armed forces communications in Whatcom County and Skagit Valley.

Red Cross Month is a time to thank every one of these contributors without which these services would not be available to our community.

In the spirit of Red Cross Month the Mt. Baker Chapter of the American Red Cross and everyone who has been touched by a Red Cross service thanks the many volunteers, donors and corporate partners who support our efforts.

Here's how you can join the cause:

- March 8, 7 pm – Come to Red Cross Trivia Night at the Trumpeter Public House in Mount Vernon.
- March 10, 12 – 1 pm – Come to our first Red Cross Live event and learn more about the inspirational work of the American Red Cross Mt Baker Chapter to care, prepare and respond to a growing community. *(Red Cross Live events are free and happen on the second Wednesday of each month at our office)*
- March 1 – 31 - Participate in our first annual Online Heroes Fundraising Campaign.
- March 1 – 31 - Contribute to the “Help fill our ERV” Campaign throughout March. Cascade Radio

Group will host a live broadcast March 26 and all contributions of \$100 or more will be mentioned on the air.

For more information on these exciting events and other ways you can support the Red Cross contact Marinda Peugh at marindap@mtbredcross.org or (360) 733-3290 x1018.



During times of disaster the Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) are among the first on the scene. These vehicles are stocked with emergency supplies such as cots, blankets, comfort kits, clean-up kits, water, food, meal preparation equipment, food items and first aid supplies. It costs us \$25,000 to fill our ERV annually.

Message from the Executive Director



We were all glued to our television screens watching images of the tragedy in Haiti and a nation trying to survive in the aftermath. It is truly inspiring to me to see the generosity shown by our community for our neighbors in Haiti. Thank you to everyone who donated to the American Red Cross International Response Fund.

The American Red Cross is there for you whether you need help or you want to give help to others in need. It's a place where a total stranger will give you shelter from a storm, a word of comfort in a crisis or even help save your life.

The economic crisis we are all experiencing is making it more challenging than ever to raise the funds necessary to help those in need. Red Cross aid is an outright gift. It is provided by voluntary contributions from our community and everything that we do is made possible by the support of our volunteers, donors and corporate partners. Locally, nationally or internationally, Red Cross is there when people need us most because of generous people like you.

In honor of National Red Cross Month and on behalf of the Mt Baker Chapter of the American Red Cross and everyone who has been touched by a Red Cross service I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support.

Meet our New Staff Members!



**LINDA
GILES**
Volunteer
Services
Director

On October 9, Linda Giles took over the role of Mt. Baker's Volunteer Services Director. This is Linda's first experience with the Red Cross.

"Everyday I learn more about this amazing organization, and am again inspired to support our volunteers."

She states her immediate goal as being to meet all of Mt. Baker's volunteers! Beyond that, "I want to continue recruiting new Red Cross volunteers and then helping them find their perfect fit within the organization. Then of course thanking, motivating, and recognizing all our volunteers is a must."

She is also focused on reaching out to the youth population.

"I want to involve more young people to learn to

prevent, prepare, and respond to disasters in their own lives and as volunteers. Once a volunteer, always a volunteer. The younger we can get them excited about volunteering the better."

Linda added, "I do believe that there is a place for almost everyone within the Red Cross – it's just a matter of finding it."

Linda is a graduate of Washington State University. After college she taught high school English and drama classes in Hawaii, helped start a school within a school for at-risk youth, and ran a children's summer camp on Orcas Island. An author, speaker, and facilitator, she has a company called Life Inspired, and has penned a book titled The Big Hunger.

If you have any questions/encouragement for our new Volunteer Services Director, please don't hesitate to contact her directly via e-mail at lindadgiles@mtbredcross.org, or phone (360) 733-3290 ext. 1015.

**MARINDA
PEUGH**
Financial
Development
Director



Marinda Peugh joined the Chapter in December, replacing Wendy Hewitt, who retired to Arizona with her husband.

Marinda comes from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Washington and the United Way of Whatcom County. She is a Western Washington University graduate and resides in Bellingham. She enjoys writing, dancing, traveling and being outside.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to work for such an incredible agency and important cause," Marinda said. "I look forward to continuing to promote philanthropy and transforming lives throughout Whatcom and Skagit Counties."

Marinda can be reached via email at marindap@mtbredcross.org or phone (360) 733-3290 ext. 1018.

Disaster Services: A Year in Review

The Disaster Services Department of the Mt. Baker Chapter experienced growth and increased response in 2009.

The year began with a Mass Care response to flooding and mud slides in Whatcom and Skagit counties that lasted for several weeks. Six shelters were opened where clients were provided a safe place to stay when forced from their homes by damage or mandatory evacuations. A feeding team was activated to support the shelter clients, local utility workers and mobile feeding efforts. Clients were also assisted with supplies, clean-up kits and referrals for their long-term recovery.

The Disaster Action Team, our 24/7 emergency response group, responded to over 46 cases during 2009. The majority were single family fires, resulting in over 140 individuals helped. Food, clothing, shelter and urgent medical needs were all addressed in the immediate aftermath of the fires. Caseworkers also assisted clients with valuable information and referrals to partner agencies.

Mass Care was highlighted again in November with a response to a 3-alarm fire at the Whatcom Middle School.



Teams of Red Cross volunteers fed and hydrated over 100 fire fighters and first responders working throughout the night and the following day. Many partner agencies including Cash and Carry, Subway, McDonald's, Little Caesar's and Starbuck's

donated to the response effort strengthening our ability to serve the community. The entire relief effort was a wonderful example of a community pulling together to help one another.

When not responding to emergencies, Disaster Services focused on training, planning and preparedness. New volunteers were trained in the foundational Red Cross courses and leadership volunteers received advanced training at the Regional Institute in Everett. Drills accompanied these preparedness activities, including a volunteer leadership drill designed for a large-scale flood response held at the Chapter Emergency Headquarters.

Due to the 2010 Olympics, catastrophic planning was a strong focus in 2009. The Mt. Baker Chapter began preparations to feed and shelter thousands of individuals should a natural disaster or other threat occur during the Olympic Games. Collaboration with City and County Emergency Management, the Health Department, Department of Transportation, Border Patrol, Canadian Red Cross and local partner agencies increased to ensure efficiency of operations during a major incident. A state-wide Red Cross drill was also held preparing the state of WA, and all of its Red Cross Chapters, for a mass evacuation from the games.

2009 was definitely an exciting year! It takes a village to respond in a disaster. Thank you to all who have helped with these relief efforts ... whether you made a donation, served as a Disaster Services volunteer or assisted through a partner agency ... your help and support is very much appreciated.

80% of the Time CPR is Performed on Someone You Know.

Are you trained to save a life?



Each year approximately 11 million Americans enroll in American Red Cross Health and Safety courses, and approximately 40,000 Red Cross Health and Safety Services instructors deliver and help sustain life-saving programs.

The Red Cross seeks to develop and deliver programs that allow the American public to help create safer and more secure families, communities, workplaces and schools. Core programs such as First Aid, CPR/AED, Aquatics, Pet First Aid and Babysitter's Training are staples of the Red Cross Health and Safety training.

The Red Cross strives to support these lifesaving services and products by promoting community awareness of the Red Cross role in keeping American families and neighborhoods safe.

The American Red Cross recommends that at least one person in every home and every office floor be trained to provide lifesaving CPR/AED care in an emergency situation.

The most effective way to learn first aid and CPR/AED is to participate in hands-on training courses taught by a certified Red Cross instructor.

Volunteer Spotlight

All eyes in the room were on one person. One person who has done more for the Mt. Baker Chapter of the American Red Cross than almost anyone. One person who has averaged two deployments a year for the last 25 years. Yes, 25 years. Everyone listened attentively as one story after another



found its way into the ceremony. CoCo Lomas spent a considerable amount of time with the Red Cross giving and giving and giving. And here she was at her own retirement ceremony entertaining the group with memorable stories and presenting the staff with gifts. That's just the way CoCo works.

Red Cross volunteers do amazing things every day, but it is Coco's heart and humor that make her stand out among the rest. At every disaster that lay before her, Coco was there with a helping hand and an open heart. Even if the work to be done looked insurmountable, she put a smile on her face and went out to accomplish what needed to be done.

CoCo has tried to retire before but because she is so skilled at what she does, it was only a matter of time before she got pulled back in. CoCo's current retirement is complete, except that she will still be teaching some classes and oh, if a big disaster hits, she'll be the first one in line to help.

Will Rogers said, "If you want to be successful, it's just this simple: Know what you're doing. Love what you're doing. And believe in what you're doing." Make no mistake about it, CoCo knows, loves and believes in the American Red Cross and that is what made her the success that she is.

The American Red Cross Responds to Earthquake in Haiti



Because of the generosity of our donors, people in Haiti are receiving more than immediate relief — they are receiving resources, support and training from the Red Cross that will help them recover and rebuild for years to come. Please help support the American Red Cross's relief efforts in Haiti by donating to the American Red Cross International Response Fund. To all of you who have already donated thank you from all of us here at the Mt. Baker Chapter.



Mt Baker Chapter Wish List

- New building with adequate parking and accessibility
- Portable TV with built-in DVD player
- Supplies and labor to help build our new kitchen
- Typewriter
- Take a class in CPR / First Aid and refer others
- Invite Red Cross to train employees at your business
- Commit an employee to becoming your "company" CPR Trainer
- Connect Red Cross to your local church, service club or school
- Volunteers are always needed (over 350 annually) for disaster action teams, special events, Service to the Armed Forces, First Aid/CPR trainers, office work, etc.
- Invite friends and co-workers to our Red Cross Live events the 2nd Wednesday of every month

- Come to Red Cross Trivia Night March 8 at the Trumpeter Public House in Mount Vernon
- Sponsors & guests for our "Win an Instant Wine Cellar" event April 21, 2010
- Sponsors and golfers for 2010 Golf Tournament and Ball Drop July 2, 2010
- Real Heroes nominations — go to www.mtbredcross.org for form
- Sponsors, Table Captains and attendees for Real Heroes Dec. 2, 2010
- Participate in our 1st annual Online Heroes Fundraising March 1 - 31
- Contribute to the "Help fill our ERV" Campaign March 1 - 31
- Ask your employer to sponsor an event, match your donation or promote the Red Cross in your next company newsletter

Our Chapter Office Has Had a Facelift



The Mt. Baker Chapter of the American Red Cross would like to extend our immense thanks to all those who helped in-kind to beautify the interior and exterior of our chapter office!

Through a generous \$5,000 grant from Conoco Phillips Red Cross Board Member and Conoco Phillips employee Dan Kier and several other employees volunteered their time to replace the siding and windows on the front of our building and then finished it off with a fresh coat of paint.

Alcoa Intalco Works completed our new garden – spreading fresh dirt, planting flowers, and tearing down our old fence. Walkers Carpet One installed all new carpet inside the building.

Thank you all for your generous donation of time and supplies! Red Cross volunteers, employees, and clients will reap the benefits of your work for years to come.

Masters of Disaster Program Available Online

Through partnership between the Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross, Helios Education Foundation, State Farm, and Arizona PBS, Masters of Disaster is now available online!



Masters of Disaster is an interactive disaster safety curriculum that teaches elementary and middle school students the skills and knowledge they need to prepare for, recognize and recover from a disaster in their home, school, or community. Please visit www.mtbredcross.org website to learn more and utilize Masters of Disaster online!

Why I Give to the American Red Cross



Ross Clawson

I am proud to say that I've been Chairman of the Board for the American Red Cross Mt Baker Chapter for the past 18 months and a Board Member for two years prior to that. My father-in-law was a Red Cross volunteer for more than two decades, so Red Cross activities have been in our family for a long time. My family has been blessed with good health, a home, and food to eat. But I know there are people in our community who aren't as blessed, and I feel a responsibility to help. Through the Red Cross, my donations make a difference in the lives of local people. Yes, the Red Cross is the largest humanitarian organization in the world. But knowing what they do locally is important to me too. I get satisfaction out of knowing my dollars are helping people here today, as well as preparing our community for disasters which may come tomorrow.



American Red Cross

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www.mtbreredcross.org

Your gifts support the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross in your community, across the country and around the world. Please donate to the Red Cross today. Together we can save a life.



RESPONDER

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- Maureen Enegren, Executive Director
- Linda Giles, Volunteer Services Director
- Tom Burkland, Health and Safety Director
- Sue Dralle, Health and Safety Assistant
- Jayne Heining, Finance Director
- Marinda Peugh, Financial Development Director
- Stacy Rice, Emergency Services Director
- Roxanne Pierce, Office Operations Manager
- Ron O'Neel, Gift Planning Officer

Leadership Volunteers

Representing:
Communications, Client Casework, Disaster Services, Emergency Support, Health Services, Information Management Systems, Mental Health, Partner Services.

- | | |
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