

Volume 3, Issue 8

Fall 2009



American Red Cross

Piedmont Chapter

AMERICAN RED CROSS PIEDMONT CHAPTER

CROSS ROADS

From Our Executive Director

By Rochelle N. Brown, Executive Director

Dwight D. Eisenhower is credited with saying that “the services of the Red Cross demonstrate our nation’s tradition of neighbor helping neighbor.” I am reminded of this each and every day when I see our Disaster Action Team respond to the needs of those displaced by home fires; when I watch a volunteer instructor teach a group First Aid skills or when I hear that we’ve helped a military service member reach their family during times of need. These may not be the large scale disasters or man-made tragedies that make the evening news, but they are examples of your American Red Cross at work in the community, neighbor helping neighbor.

Despite the current economic climate, our mission critical work goes on, but we need your help now more than ever. At the Piedmont Chapter, there are many ways you can reach out and make an impact in someone’s life. One person’s financial donation becomes the blankets wrapped around a family that has lost everything. Another person’s willingness to come in for a few hours and answer our phones, helps us stay connected to the public. Or someone’s day spent in CPR training can save the life of a loved one, a co-worker, or even a stranger. Without these donations of volunteer time and monetary gifts, large and small, we can’t do what we do. Contrary to popular belief, the Red Cross is not a government agency and is not federally funded. Our doors stay open due to the generosity of people just like you.

As we near the holiday season, continue to keep in mind the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor and remember your Red Cross is at work each and every day. Won’t you join us in this effort? Together, we can perform extraordinary acts and make a real difference in the lives of others.

Welcome New Volunteers!

We are delighted to welcome the following volunteers who joined our team during August, September, & October:

Karen Bambrough	Stephanie Dover	Ocie Manning	Angelo Thalassenos
Kelly Berry	LaVerne Fenwick	Marsha McKinnon	Travis Tolliver
Susan Bledsoe	Jessica Ford	Shannon Middleton	Brittany Twitty
Roxanne Bradley	Sharon Foster	Randy Mueller	Libby Waldrep
Caryn Brock	Gary Garber	Nam Pham	Rodney Will
Brandi Brown	Nathan Hartis	Treva Rice	Tracy Will
Susan Crocker	Sue Keith	Josh Slone	Shirley Yang
Barry Davis	Sarah Lau	Jordan Smith	
Georgica Day	Annetta Lipscomb	Alicia Smith	
Deborah Dean	RaeJean Lipscomb	Shirmel Smith	



American Red Cross
Piedmont Chapter

PIEDMONT CHAPTER STAFF

Executive Director
Rochelle N. Brown

Accounting
Elizabeth Amoroso

Emergency Services
Kelly H. Stafford
Jane Morris
Linda Burns

Health & Safety
Jodie Morrison
Kate Augustine

Public Support
Greg Virga

Volunteer Office
Amy P. Foreman

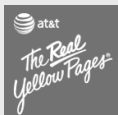
Cherokee Office
Shellie Wylie
Becky Mullinax

Union Office
Carol Willis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Michelle Sullivan, Chair
- Mark Aycock
- Paul Davis
- Sophia Facey
- Beverly Foster-Blackley
- Marina Kakouras
- Chad Lawson
- Evan Liollo
- Will Lowder
- Amy Oakes
- Pedro Van Hoecke
- Sarah Young

Community Partners



Joan Hendrix Retires After 24 Years of Service

Joan Hendrix has been an incredible asset to the chapter over the past 24 years and will be missed as the Director of Accounting. She kicked off her retirement with a trip to Hawaii where her son is stationed in the Army. We wish Joan the best in this new chapter of her life.

After Joan retired, Beth Amoroso was hired as the new Chapter Finance Assistant. We welcome Beth to the Chapter and appreciate her hard work!

New Public Support Director Hired



Greg Virga was hired as Public Support Director at the end of June. He moved to the Upstate with his wife and son from New York where he worked for the United Way as the Volunteer & Site Manager for a free income tax service. Greg is already hard at work on next year's Ret-rofest and even has a brand new event in his plans! Please help us welcome Greg to the Red Cross.

Staff Member Welcomes New Baby Boy

The Piedmont Chapter is happy to report that Jodie Morrison has returned to her position as Director of Health and Safety. Jodie was on maternity leave beginning the end of June, when she, husband Billy, and brother Luke welcomed **Cameron Robert Morrison** to their family.

Cameron was born June 20 (three weeks early!) at 9:13 am. He weighed 7 lbs., 10 ½ oz. Jodie believes Cameron's early arrival was deliberately orchestrated on his part in order to participate in his grandfather Robert's birthday celebrations.



A Round of Applause, Please...

The Piedmont Chapter would like to acknowledge recent donations of Comfort Kits that are a part of our mission to families who have experienced a disaster-related loss of their homes.

The Bloomers Group from **Mon Aetna Baptist Church** in Union assembled 40 kits after hearing of a request from fellow church member Carol Willis, who is the Piedmont Chapter's manager in Union County.

Grace Baptist Church in Spartanburg assembled kits that were so well organized and put together they are being used for display and discussion at information and health fairs in addition to providing much needed comfort to our fire clients.

Diversco employees collected items and assembled kits during the United Way's *Week of Caring* August 31st – September 4th. Diversco's kits are also being used for display and discussion.

The Piedmont Chapter is grateful for these Comfort Kits and would like to extend a public *Thank You* to the Bloomers Group, Grace Baptist Church, and Diversco for their gifts.



Red Cross booth at Community Emergency Preparedness Day.

Recognize and Respond: Community Emergency Preparedness Day

By Nam Pham (Moore)

Knowing how to appropriately and effectively respond to an emergency is an essential skill to sustaining a community. The public was offered an opportunity to learn about emergency response on September 19th. **Community Emergency Preparedness Day**, hosted by the Piedmont Chapter, was held at Spartanburg Community College where more than twenty agencies and exhibitors showcased their organizations' role in an emergency or disaster situation.

"This event was planned as an effort to assemble agencies that help the public prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters in a single event and encourage the public to learn about what takes place during disasters," said Community Relations Coordinator, Linda Burns.

In addition to the Piedmont Chapter, participating vendors included Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), HAZMAT, North Spartanburg Fire Department, Spartanburg Advanced Rescue Team (SART), and EMS, among many others. The vendors held demonstrations, hosted simulations, and distributed promotional and informational materials to attendees in order to give them a better sense of how to respond to emergency situations.

Despite rainy weather, the spirits of the vendors were high, and those at the event enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the different vendors. "I had a great time learning about all of the different organizations," says volunteer **Kelly Berry** of Moore, who attended the event. "I even learned how to use an AED!"

Linda Burns believes that the event was successful. "As a first time event, the fact that we were able to assemble and set up all of these agencies and vendors was remarkable," she says. "We are already planning for next year which we anticipate to be even bigger."

Chapter Responds to Mock Airport Emergency

By Sue Keith (Union)

The WMD Full-Scale Exercise was held on October 13th at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport. This event was a combination of GSP's required full scale exercise that occurs every three years and the SC Emergency Management & SC Law Enforcement Division's Weapons of Mass Destruction drill, which must be done every year. The Exercise provided paid and volunteer staff from the Piedmont Chapter and the Upstate Chapter the opportunity to engage in a terrorism response exercise. This offered volunteers some different training and experiences. "I like volunteering with the Red Cross," said **Regina Singh** of Spartanburg, "because I get hands on opportunities that span a variety of situations."

In the event of an actual airport emergency, Red Cross volunteers would be responsible for staffing the Friends and Family Reception Center and providing comfort and mass care, including serving drinks and snacks. At the exercise, most volunteers were assigned to the Reception Center, where they received the friends and family members of crash victims. Actors played the roles of victims, friends, and family. Mental health services were provided by licensed mental health volunteers. Red Cross volunteers also staffed the JIC (Joint Information Center), which served as a public affairs center.

The exercise highlighted how important it is for volunteers and staff to participate in all types of training and simulations. As a Red Cross volunteer you never know what you may be called to do. The key is being prepared. Volunteer **Steve Brown** of Inman, will be available to help regardless of the situation. "I'm part of the Red Cross team", he said, "and I go anywhere they need me."



Louie Holland (right) of Gaffney, comforts an actor presenting as a distressed family member at the GSP Exercise.

Motorcyclists & Auto Enthusiasts Come to Upstate, Raise Funds for Red Cross

September and October welcomed bikers and car buffs alike as the Piedmont Chapter joined forces with the Upstate Chapter to participate in two special events. The money raised at both events was divided between the Chapters to fund Red Cross programs and services. Volunteers from the Piedmont Chapter were present at the Motorcycle Rally in September and Eurofest in October to help promote the Red Cross.



Volunteers register participating motorcyclists at the Rally.

Motorcycle Rally

By **Joyce Owens** (Duncan)

The dew covered lawn welcomed motorcyclists in the early morning for the 16th Annual **Red Cross Motorcycle Rally**. Bikers from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee gathered on September 12th to see old buddies, make new friends and help the Red Cross meet funding needs for services.

Bikers ride a route starting at BMW in Spartanburg and ending at Harley Davidson in Greenville. The registration tables were busy from beginning to end as volunteers greeted over 1,000 riders. The event raised over \$30,000.

For my two teen aged sons and myself, seeing so many give of their time and their hearts for others was a wonderful experience.

The Piedmont Chapter would like to thank the following volunteers who helped with the event: **Doug Baker, Kelly Berry, Joy Cooper, Barry Davis, Deborah Dean, Sheila Garrison, Annetta Lipscomb, Joy Moody, Joyce, Brock & Andrew Owens, Nam Pham, LaTina Wilkins, Gina Wright & Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity of USC-Upstate.**

Eurofest

By **Sue Keith** (Union)

The **Euro Auto Festival** is a 3-day event that brings together European car enthusiasts to display their cars and socialize with fellow car owners. This festival was established to promote appreciation for vintage, classic, and antique European cars. This year's event was held October 16th – 18th at the BMW Zentrum located next to the BMW plant on I-85. Now in its 14th year, the festival featured a car show, an autocross, exhibits, specialty merchants, and a road rally. Car owners from all over the U.S., Canada, and England attended.

The Spartanburg Marriot at Renaissance Park served as the host hotel for this year's Eurofest. Red Cross volunteers filled goody bags and worked at the hospitality suite, reception, banquet, and silent auction held at the hotel. Volunteers also helped with various activities at the BMW Zentrum.

Volunteer **Ruby Jones** of Union thought the festival was a fun event. "The participants were so friendly to Red Cross volunteers," she said. Many participants said the fact that they could help a worthy cause was a big reason they came to Eurofest. Some had experienced personal disasters and deeply appreciated the help they received from the Red Cross.

Last year, Eurofest donated \$40,000 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.



Volunteers from the Piedmont and Upstate Chapters work booths at Eurofest every year. Photo courtesy of www.euroautofestival.com

Volunteer Stories – Georgia Flood Response

We asked two of our Chapter volunteers who deployed to Georgia to share their experiences in their own words:

✦ “This was my first deployment on the Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) and will not be the last I hope. We all worked our tails off, laughed, cried & laughed some more. Working the ERV and getting to know the people on your route makes you realize just how insignificant a lot of your worries are. It is interesting to watch the range of emotions clients go through: shock, depression, anger and acceptance so they can start to move forward with their lives. The teamwork among all the Red Cross staff & volunteers is truly remarkable. My deployment on the ERV is in the top 5 of the best things I have ever done.”
- **Donna Wiggs** (Spartanburg)

✦ “I had the opportunity to work in the Atlanta area Red Cross Shelters for two weeks. I worked in three shelters, including the largest shelter in the Cobb Civic Center. During the 3 week period this shelter was opened, over 300 families were processed through this shelter. We worked very long 12-14 hour shifts, but this was the most rewarding work I have ever experienced. I got the opportunity to hear and see first hand how affects of flood water can completely leave families homeless and with nothing left but the clothes on their back.

I saw unspeakable acts of kindness from the community: people wanting to help by donating food, clothes, household items, money and even children bringing in their own



Ray Broome captured some of the damage caused by floods in Georgia on his recent deployment.



Donna Wiggs hands out meals from the Emergency Response Vehicle

toys for the children at the shelter.

I met and formed friendships with the greatest group of people: Red Cross volunteers.” - **Deb Huffman** (Chesnee)

Limestone College Holds Blood Drive, Community Responds

By **Alicia Smith** (Blacksburg)

Cherokee County may be small, but when Limestone College held a blood drive on September 25th the college community made a huge impact with the Piedmont Chapter.

Limestone College hosts campus blood drives as part of its efforts to support the Red Cross. Community members and the student body alike came out in support of the most recent drive. Blood Services supervisory volunteer **Mike Morrow** of Forest City, NC, has been impressed with the work brought forth by the volunteers and the people of Cherokee County. “They are good volunteers; eager to learn new things,” he says. “They bring additional talents to the chapter.”

Limestone College was named the 2008-2009 Community Partner of the Year. The College hopes to continuously live up to that honor through blood services, health fairs, and of course, getting its students involved with helping the community. The opportunities available for these young men and women to diligently serve through the Piedmont Chapter will stay with them for the rest of their lives. By touching the lives of many, they are improving their own lives.

Volunteers of the Month

September/October Volunteer of the Month

Ginny Braun truly understands how beneficial volunteering can be for everyone involved. “Volunteering for the Red Cross is a win-win for me,” she says. “Having a state licensed, in-home preschool for 29 years, I wanted to keep abreast of changes as they occurred as well as honing my skills frequently. I get to give back to the community and pass on life-saving information to my neighbors!”

Ginny has been a valuable volunteer at the Union office for well over 15 years. Since May, Ginny, along with fellow instructor Lynn Crow, has trained or recertified over 100 Union residents in life-saving skills.

“She is always willing to step up when needed and supports everything that the Red Cross is involved in,” says Carol Willis, Union Service Center Manager. “Ginny exemplifies what the Red Cross is all about.”

Congratulations Ginny!



Ginny Braun (Union)

November Volunteer of the Month

By **Brandi Brown**
(Cherokee)

One word comes to mind when you hear the name **Ray Broome**: dedication. Ray loves to help people because, as he says, it makes him “feel good inside”. With over 35 years of volunteer service, he should be feeling pretty good! “Ray has the energy of a



Ray Broome (Blacksburg)

man half his age,” Shellie Wylie, Cherokee Service Center Manager said. “Combine that with his devotion to our mission and we’ve got one terrific volunteer!” Ray is a CPR & First Aid Instructor as well as a disaster volunteer. He was recently deployed to Georgia on the Chapter’s Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV).

Congratulations Ray!

December Volunteer of the Month

By **Gina Wright** (Spartanburg)

You have to love something in order to enjoy it, and over the past ten months, **Jennifer Rohlman** has shown her love for the community and the Red Cross in more ways than one.

Not only does she volunteer in the office three days a week, she is a member of the Retrofest committee, serves as a DAT captain, and is a Client Casework Supervisor.

For her work in the office, Jennifer was honored as the Administrative Support Volunteer of the Year at the Chapter’s Annual Volunteer Recognition Reception.

When Jennifer was asked what drew her to the Red Cross she responded by saying, “Initially, I saw advertisements and

was always interested. I volunteer in general because I love it, but being a part of the Red Cross showed me how much the community needed help and how we can help in so many ways that I did not know. I really love being around a great group of people and in a good atmosphere.”

Chapter Case Manager, Jane Morris offered high praise when asked about Jennifer’s work as a volunteer. “Jennifer is a great volunteer, always available, holds a lot of responsibility and does anything she is asked,” Jane said. “She represents the Red Cross very well.”

Congratulations Jennifer!



Jennifer Rohlman (Moore)

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer with the Piedmont Chapter, contact the appropriate office to sign up for Volunteer Orientation.

Spartanburg 583-8000
Cherokee 489-6066 Union 427-7991

Piedmont Chapter Training and Event Calendar

You must **PRE-REGISTER** for all calendar events

Spartanburg (864) 583-8000 Cherokee (864) 489-6066 Union (864) 427-7991

HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

Saturday, Nov. 14: Babysitter's Training, Spartanburg
9:00 am - 3:30 pm (ages 11-15)

Saturday, Nov. 14: Adult CPR & First Aid, Cherokee
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monday, Nov. 16: Adult CPR Recertification Union
Beginning at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 17: FA/CPR/AED Instructor Training,
Part 1 of 4, Cherokee 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 17: Infant/Child CPR Recertification
Union Beginning at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 18: FA/CPR/AED Instructor Training
continues, Part 2 of 4, Cherokee 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Thursday, Nov. 19: Adult CPR/AED, First Aid &
Bloodborne Pathogens**, Spartanburg 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday, Nov. 19: FA/CPR/AED Instructor Training
continues, Part 3 of 4, Cherokee 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday, Nov. 19: Infant/Child CPR, Spartanburg
6:00 pm -10:00 pm.

Friday, Nov. 20: FA/CPR/AED Instructor Training
continues, Part 4 of 4, Cherokee 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Saturday, Nov. 21: CPR/AED for the Healthcare
Provider**, Spartanburg 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 25: Babysitter's Training,
Cherokee County Public Library 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
(Bring Lunch)

Wednesday, Dec. 2: Recertification Training,
Spartanburg ACP/AED 9:00 am, First Aid 11:30 am,
Infant/Child CPR 1:00 pm

**Thursday, Dec. 3: Adult CPR/AED, First Aid &
Bloodborne Pathogens**, Spartanburg 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday, Dec. 5: Adult CPR Training, Blacksburg TBD,
Contact the Cherokee office, 10:00 am - Noon

Monday, Dec. 7: Adult CPR & First Aid, Cherokee
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 8: Infant & Child CPR, Cherokee
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Thursday, Dec. 10: Infant/Child CPR, Spartanburg
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm.

Saturday, Dec. 12: Adult, Child & Infant CPR,
Spartanburg 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Monday, Dec. 14: Adult CPR/AED, Spartanburg
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**Thursday, Dec. 17: Adult CPR/AED, First Aid &
Bloodborne Pathogens**, Spartanburg 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday, Dec. 17: First Aid, Spartanburg
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**Saturday, Dec. 19: CPR/AED for the Healthcare
Provider**, Spartanburg 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 22: Babysitter's Training, Spartanburg
9:00 am - 3:30 pm (ages 11-15)

Tuesday, Dec. 29: Babysitter's Training, Spartanburg
9:00 am - 3:30 pm (ages 11-15)

Dec. TBD: FA/CPR/AED Instructor Training, 4 parts,
Contact Spartanburg office (must be 16 years old or over)

Monday, Jan. 4: Adult CPR & First Aid, Cherokee
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Tuesday, Jan. 5: Infant & Child CPR, Cherokee
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Tuesday, Dec. 1: Volunteer Orientation, Union
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Monday, Dec. 7: Volunteer Orientation, Spartanburg
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 8: Volunteer Orientation, Cherokee
11:00 am - Noon

Tuesday, Jan. 12: Volunteer Orientation, Cherokee
11:00 am - Noon

Thursday, Jan. 14: Volunteer Orientation, Spartanburg
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

DISASTER TRAINING

Tuesday, Dec. 1: DAT, Spartanburg 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

The following training classes are required for **all disaster volunteers** and can be completed at anytime. Come to the Spartanburg office during business hours to complete:

- ✦ Fulfilling Our Mission
- ✦ Mass Care: An Overview
- ✦ Introduction to Disaster

MILITARY SERVICES

Tuesday, Nov. 17: Blue Star Mothers Meeting
Spartanburg 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Contact the office

Tuesday, Dec. 15: Blue Star Mothers Meeting
Spartanburg 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Contact the office

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Jan. 26: Board Meeting Spartanburg,
Beginning at Noon

Tuesday, April 27: Board Meeting Spartanburg,
Beginning at Noon

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, Nov. 17: Downtown Union Christmas Open
House** Begins at 5:00 pm. Red Cross will be selling hotdogs,
hot chocolate, and baked goods. To help at the booth or to
contribute baked goods, call Carol 427-7991

**Thursday, Dec. 3: Disaster Services Volunteer Christ-
mas Party**, Delaney's in Spartanburg 7:00 pm

Thursday, Dec. 17: Volunteer Christmas Breakfast,
Cherokee 8:30 am

Retrofest: Saturday, February 6

CPR Saturday: March 13

OTHER TRAINING CLASSES & MEETINGS

A **babysitter certification** class will be held in Union in
November for youth ages 11-15. For more information
please call the Union office at 864-427-7991.



American Red Cross

Piedmont Chapter
104 Garner Road
Spartanburg, SC 29303

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