



Together, we can save a life

AMERICAN RED CROSS PIEDMONT CHAPTER

Volunteer Connection

From the Volunteer Coordinator: New Year, New Experiences

Hello Volunteers!

It's hard to believe we are already two months in to the New Year! I'm very excited to present the first volunteer newsletter of 2009. This issue of the *Volunteer Connection* offers information about trying new things and learning more about all lines of service the Piedmont Chapter offers to our community.

As the new year progresses, take a moment to think about your role as an American Red Cross volunteer. *What volunteer function are you currently serving? Do you have an interest in other volunteer positions? When was the last time you attended a training course? Are you up to date on your CPR and First Aid certifications? Do you have skills or passions you haven't shared with us yet? How can you contribute more to your community through the Red Cross?*

At the Piedmont Chapter you are always invited to explore volunteer roles and develop your skills. Consider trying something new this year:

- Interested in driving the ERV? *Sign up for training (page 2).*
- Have changes in your schedule made it difficult to respond to DAT calls or work in the office? *Consider taking AFES calls from home.*
- Interested in going on National Disaster Responses? *Become a DAT member and get the experience you need by responding to local disasters first.*
- Want to be more involved when you aren't taking AFES calls or responding to DAT calls? *Become a Health & Safety Instructor, schedule time in the office, or help with a special event.*

There are many opportunities for you to remain active and engaged as a volunteer. Anytime you are interested in a new experience, just talk to your supervisor or get in touch with me. We are happy to help you choose your next step!

Amy Foreman
Volunteer Coordinator
aforeman@piedmontarc.org

Welcome New Volunteers!

We are delighted to welcome the following volunteers who joined our team in January:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Peggy Atkinson | Sandra Lipscomb | LaKendra Robinson |
| Leesa Bodden | Sherry Mazyck | Jennifer Rohlman |
| Joy Cooper | Susan Nyp | Regina Singh |
| Jessica Fowler | Sharon O'Brien | J.T. Spires |
| Shelia Jenkins | Mandy Parker | Donna Wiggs |
| Jennifer Keller | Jose Reyes | Tom Wiggs |
| Lynn Kirtley | | |

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Be sure to check out...

Training Calendar!
Volunteer Perks!
Critical Needs!

Training & Event Calendar

Training courses are free and open to all current volunteers

- **March 2nd** — *DAT/Client Casework*
Learn how to respond to local disasters and provide clients with immediate needs. 6:00pm in Spartanburg
- **March 4th** — *Volunteer Orientation*
Encourage your friends, family, and co-workers to join our team!
5:45pm in Spartanburg
- **March 4th** — *Fulfilling Our Mission*
Required training for all Disaster Volunteers. Great overview of Red Cross mission. 6:45pm in Spartanburg
- **March 18th** — *Health & Safety Committee Meeting*
Contact Jodie Morrison for more information (864) 583-8000.
11:00am in Spartanburg
- **March 19th** — *Volunteer Orientation*
Encourage your friends, family, and co-workers to join our team!
2:00pm in Spartanburg
- **March 19th** — *Fulfilling Our Mission*
Required training for all Disaster Volunteers. Great overview of Red Cross mission. 3:00pm in Spartanburg
- **March 19th** — *Shelter Operations*
Learn how to open and work in a local shelter and prepare yourself for national disaster response.
6:00pm in Spartanburg
- **March 21st** — *ERV Training*
Learn how to drive and care for an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV).
9:00am in Greenville; Meet in Spartanburg at 8:15am to carpool

Please contact the Cherokee County office for trainings in Cherokee (864) 489-6066

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
March is Red Cross Month!	DAT/Client Casework		Volunteer Orientation & Fulfilling Our Mission	Taste of Cherokee		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Health & Safety Committee Meeting	Volunteer Orientation & Fulfilling Our Mission Shelter Ops		ERV
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Did you know...

■ **Almost all* training courses are FREE to current volunteers.** Attending training courses prepares you to be ready when needed and broadens your knowledge of Red Cross services. Simply call the office to register for training.

■ **CPR & First Aid courses are offered at a REDUCED RATE for current volunteers.** You can attend CPR/First Aid training for ONLY \$15! Call the office for a complete list of class dates and times.

■ **You can fulfill more than one volunteer function.** Several volunteers are trained and active in more than one department. You can be on DAT *and* instruct Health & Safety courses. Or be an AFES team member *and* work in the office. Fulfilling more than one role keeps you active and gives you exposure to the many different lines of service at the Red Cross.

**Exceptions: Health & Safety Instructor course. Please contact the office for price information.*

Call today to take advantage of any of these great volunteer perks!

Connect with Spartanburg: Milliken Provides Much Needed Help

Thanks to some very helpful Milliken employees, we were able to complete important projects this winter. On December 19th, a small group of local Milliken employees spent the afternoon in our Spartanburg office compiling invitations for the annual Wine Auction. They also assembled Bags of Life, which are distributed to senior citizens, and individuals that are homebound and/or live alone. The Bag of Life holds Health and Medication Information forms that are kept in a specific location for EMS to find quickly in an emergency.

Milliken was able to assist us again for the Milliken Day of Service on January 21st. A large group of Milliken associates spent the morning at our Spartanburg office as part of a team building and community support initiative. The group completed the annual inventory of disaster services supplies. We now has a comprehensive inventory of items such as blankets, Comfort Kits, cots, shelter kits, mass care kits and educational materials.

The Piedmont Chapter extends its most sincere thanks to the Milliken associates who helped so much.

Do you know of an organization or group that would like to spend a few hours working on a special project for the American Red Cross? Contact Amy Foreman Phone: (864) 583-8000 or Email: aforeman@piedmontarc.org



Milliken Day of Service

Connect With Cherokee: Upcoming Event!

Cherokee Office • 405 N. Logan Street • Gaffney, SC 29340 • (864) 489-6066



The Cherokee County office is busy as always, especially as we prepare for a large event. The 8th annual Taste of Cherokee, held on Thursday, March 5th, invites local businesses, organizations, and individuals to sponsor tables. Event attendees have the opportunity to sample food and drink as well as obtain information at each sponsor's table. The event also features a silent auction and contest for best decorated table. It's sure to be a delicious experience!

Tickets are available in advance for \$15 at the following locations: Buford Street Drugs, A Kut Above Salon, Kirby's Flowers, and American Red Cross offices in Cherokee & Spartanburg. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$20.

Current Piedmont Chapter volunteers are invited to help with this event. Please contact Shellie Wylie: (864) 489-6066.

**Taste of Cherokee is March 5th from 5:30pm to 8:00pm
Broad River Electric Co-operative, 811 Hamrick Street (Hwy 29), Gaffney**

Retrofest Volunteers Are Groovy!

Retrofest, the South's largest disco party, was a huge success! With attendance of over 1200, this was truly the *grooviest* disco party of the year!

Several volunteers were on site to provide fun bags, food, and beverages to event attendees. Many volunteers got into the *far out* fashions of the 70's and looked the part as they sold beverage tickets and handed out popcorn, cokes, and beers. A large group from Sigma Alpha Epsilon at USC Upstate made sure clean up after the event was easy and fast!



Derrick & Toni Sanders enjoyed selling beverage tickets.

Thank You to the following GROOVY Retrofest Volunteers:

Leesa Bodden
Patricia Byrd
Todd Crocker
Bronson Dodd

Sheila Garrison
Sabrina Gist
Stephanie Horton
Eureka Johnson

Jackie LaFontaine
Tonya Martin
Brooks Moss
Carolyn Ragin

Charles Ragin
Edie Riddlespurger
Derrick Sanders
Toni Sanders

Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Piedmont Civitans
Sertoma Club
Boiling Springs
Athletic Boosters

*If you would like to volunteer for next year's Retrofest or any of our special events, please contact Amy Foreman.
Phone: (864) 583-8000 or Email: aforeman@piedmontarc.org*



American Red Cross

Piedmont Chapter
104 Garner Road
Spartanburg, SC 29303-3149

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Permit No. 293

Critical Volunteer Needs at the Piedmont Chapter



House and apartment fires make up the majority of disaster responses.

With the start of a new year, it's time to evaluate your role at the Piedmont Chapter. How can you continue to grow and develop as a volunteer and what can you do to remain active and engaged? Consider fulfilling a critical need position.

The Piedmont Chapter currently needs volunteers to respond to local disasters including house/apartment fires, ice storms, storm damage, and other natural and man-made disasters. Members of Disaster Action Teams (DAT) sign up to be on-call and then respond to disaster sites. DAT members are primarily client caseworkers, assisting victims with immediate needs like food, clothing, and shelter. DAT volunteers can also provide Damage Assessment services or be prepared for situations requiring Mass Care or Mass Feeding.

If you are already a current volunteer, simply register for an upcoming DAT training to get started (see the calendar on page 2).

If you know someone who is *not* a current volunteer but is interested in DAT, encourage them to register for an upcoming Volunteer Orientation and then attend a DAT training (page 2).

Not only are DAT members providing a valuable service to community members, they are also training and preparing to respond to National Disasters. As Hurricane Season nears, Piedmont Chapter volunteers must be prepared. Start your training now!

Call for more information
Spartanburg/Union: (864) 583-8000
Cherokee: (864) 489-6066



Will you be there for the next family?