



Together, we can save a life

AMERICAN RED CROSS PIEDMONT CHAPTER

Volunteer Connection

From the Volunteer Coordinator

Hi Volunteers!

This issue of the Volunteer Newsletter recognizes volunteers from all three counties! We have stories about Spartanburg’s recent Disaster Action Team meeting, Cherokee’s upcoming Certificate of Merit award and Taste of Cherokee event success, and we welcome Carol Willis to Union county!

Inside this issue:

Meet our new Union County Manager	1
Training & Event Calendar	2
New Cherokee County Auction	3
June’s Volunteer of the Month	4

It’s great to see volunteers working so hard to deliver Red Cross services and programs across our service area. Keep up the great work Piedmont Chapter Volunteers!

Once again, I express my deepest gratitude to volunteer **Liz Williams** who has produced another fantastic newsletter. Thank you Liz!!

Amy Foreman

Welcome New Volunteers!

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

Roxanne Gardiner
Kimberly Lipp

Ta’quita Staggs
Ashley Weldon

Margaret Williams

Crusading for Volunteers in Union County

Carol Willis’ professional title may sound impressive, but for the Piedmont Chapter’s new Service Center Manager in Union County, the position is more than just a job. It’s a crusade that she’s willing to take to the streets.

“People think that the Red Cross is just about CPR,” Carol explained, “and I want them to realize that there is more to us. I would like to see [Union County residents] involved in their community through education in both disaster services and health and safety and through volunteering.”

Carol concedes that volunteerism in the county is low, but she says she is ready to meet the challenge. A resident of the county for 53 years, Carol will be using her grass roots knowledge to boost awareness and support.

Her plan of action includes



Carol Willis believes Union County has excellent volunteer potential

visits to churches and civic organizations. On Saturday, June 13, Carol hosted a drop-in for potential volunteers (see *Page 3 for photo*). Chapter executive director Rochelle Brown believes this type of proactive influence can affect positive change.

“Carol is a well respected

member of the Union community,” Rochelle said, “and that alone sends a positive message to other community members about working with us to support our mission.”

Currently, Union County does not have any active Disaster Action Team (DAT) members. Carol hopes to solicit participation through meetings with the local Firemen’s Association. It’s all a part of giving residents a feeling of empowerment within their own individual spheres of influence.

“Union county was made up of mill villages,” Carol reflected. “Each mill village was a family, and that is still the mindset even though the mills are gone. As a volunteer, you can relate to people if they are one of your neighbors. That’s how they look at things.”

Piedmont Chapter Training and Event Calendar

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

Please call the appropriate office:

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

<i>June 2009</i>		
Sat	27	Serving People with Disabilities Following a Disaster, Spartanburg Learn Red Cross policies and practices for serving people with disabilities. <i>9:00 am to 3:00 pm</i>
Mon	29	Volunteer Orientation, Spartanburg Encourage others to join our team! <i>6:00 pm to 7:00 pm</i> Disaster Action Team (DAT) / Client Casework, Spartanburg Learn how to respond to local disasters and provide clients with immediate needs. Experience needed for national deployment. <i>6:00 pm to 10:00 pm</i>

<i>July 2009</i>		
Weds	1	Volunteer Orientation / Fulfilling Our Mission, Cherokee Encourage others to join our team! <i>12:30 pm to 2:00 pm</i>
Weds	8	Front Line Disaster Supervisor training and simulation, Part 1, Spartanburg Learn how to supervise volunteers working directly with clients during a disaster. Prerequisites. Call Kelly. Both days required. <i>6:00 pm to 10:00 pm</i>
Thurs	9	Front Line Disaster Supervisor training and simulation, Part 2, Spartanburg Learn how to supervise volunteers working directly with clients during a disaster. Prerequisites. Call Kelly. Both days required. <i>6:00 pm to 10:00 pm</i> Volunteer Orientation / Fulfilling Our Mission, Cherokee Encourage others to join our team! <i>6:00 pm to 7:30 pm</i>
Mon	13	Volunteer Orientation, Spartanburg Encourage others to join our team! <i>6:00 pm to 7:00 pm</i> Fulfilling Our Mission, Spartanburg Required training for all Disaster Volunteers <i>7:00 pm to 8:00 pm</i>
Weds	15	Health & Safety Committee Meeting, Spartanburg <i>12:00 pm to 1:00 pm</i>
Sat	18	Statewide Shelter Operations Training Day, Spartanburg / Cherokee / Union Includes Fulfilling Our Mission, Mass Care Overview, and Shelter Operations <i>Check local offices for times</i>
Mon	20	Instructor Training, Part 1, Cherokee Prerequisite. All four days required. <i>9:00 am to 1:00 pm</i>
Tues	21	Blue Star Mothers, Spartanburg Meeting for mothers who now have, or have had, children honorably serving in the military. <i>6:00 pm to 8:00 pm</i>
Weds	22	Instructor Training, Part 2, Cherokee Prerequisite. All four days required. <i>9:00 am to 4:00 pm</i>
Thurs	23	Instructor Training, Cherokee Prerequisite. All four days required. <i>9:00 am to 4:00 pm</i> Disaster Action Team (DAT) / Client Casework, Spartanburg Learn how to respond to local disasters and provide clients with immediate needs. Experience needed for national deployment. <i>6:00 pm to 10:00 pm</i>
Fri	24	Instructor Training, Part 3, Cherokee Prerequisite. All four days required. <i>9:00 am to 4:00 pm</i>
Sat	25	Shelter Operations, Part 4, Cherokee Learn how to open and work in a local shelter and be prepared for national disaster response. <i>9:00 am to 11:00 pm</i>
Tues	28	Board Meeting, Spartanburg Closed. <i>12:00 pm</i>
Thurs	30	Volunteer Orientation, Spartanburg Encourage others to join our team! <i>6:00 pm to 7:00 pm</i> Fulfilling Our Mission, Spartanburg Required training for all Disaster Volunteers <i>7:00 pm to 8:00 pm</i>
TBD	-	Volunteer Orientation, Union TBD Call the office for details

*Current volunteers can attend any training course or event, unless the event is listed as "Closed."
Training courses are free unless otherwise stated.*



Dr. Turnage with patient Cody Harris, whose mother was the highest bidder during 2009 Taste of Cherokee. They are pictured with Cherokee County Advisory Board chair **Amanda Knowles**.

New Auction to encourage services, in addition to items

Thanks to the creative generosity of a local dentist, the Gaffney office is learning that fundraising doesn't have to be as painful as...well...pulling teeth and can, in fact, contribute to a community's overall economic health. Any non-profit organization knows that raising money can be challenging, especially during difficult financial times. Volunteer **Kelly Parris** recognized the trend as she solicited items this past year for the silent auction portion of Cherokee County's major fundraiser, Taste of Cherokee, held in March. Some area business owners were forced to turn down Kelly's request because of reduced profit margins.

But that didn't deter Dr. Wes Turnage, DMD. He decided to donate a year of orthodontic services, a \$6,000 value. The popular item not only netted the office \$3,000 for their operating budget, it gave county service manager Shellie Wylie a great idea—to change the silent auction to a stand alone fundraiser and encourage other area professionals to follow Dr. Turnage's lead.

"We'd like to see some other people take his example" Shellie explained. "Lawyers and doctors don't have the time to volunteer because they are taking their own emergency calls, but they can certainly give teeth whitening or three hours of free legal advice."

Shellie says there are plans to begin holding the Silent Auction yearly in the fall. Taste of Cherokee will continue as a spring fundraiser. Next year's 6th annual event is already scheduled for March 6, 2010. Open registration for new table sponsorships begins July 1. Previous year's table sponsors have already begun registering.

And Shellie believes both the Red Cross and local professionals will see added benefits to a separate fall auction.

"They get a new client, [and] we get the money. And they get publicity for being a supporter of the Red Cross." Shellie added. "We all know who supports us, and we support them. We go to Daddy Joe's and eat; we shop at Buford Street Drugs, because we want a healthy community."

DAT volunteers "Go Live" Meeting



Spartanburg volunteers recently met to formally organize Disaster Action Teams. Five volunteers agreed to take on the responsibility of team captains. Their duties will involve managing on scene Red Cross response in Spartanburg County. DAT members who attended the meeting are pictured above. Back Row (l to r): **Kathryn Henson** (captain), **Robert Russell** (captain), **Tom Wiggs**, **Andrew Snow**; Row 3: Jane Morris (staff), **Deb Huffman**, **Dana Tillotson**, **Margaret Williams**, **Liz Williams** (captain), **Ree Henderson**, **Mandy Parker**; Row 2: **Jim Gregg**, **Paulette Gregg**, **Shelia Jenkins** (captain), Kelly Stafford (staff); Front Row: Amy Foreman (staff), **Jennifer Winstead**, **Donna Wiggs**; Not pictured: **Christy Graves** (captain), **Dee Robinson**

Union Volunteer Drop-In



Carol Willis hosted a doughnut and coffee drop-in to spark interest in volunteering in Union County. Those attending are pictured from left to right: Front Row—**Ponnee Lovelace**, **Lauri English**, **Ginny Braun**, Carol, **Sybil Crow**, **Lynn Crow**; Back Row—**Lee Lindsey**, **Leila Lindsey**, **Tiffany Black**, **Deborah Flint**, **Jessica Gallman**.

VOLUNTEER DISCOUNT!

All volunteers can receive a discount on any Health & Safety course. See the schedule insert for class dates and times.

REMINDER: All Disaster Services volunteers must have current CPR & First Aid certification.