



## We're 95 Years Old!

**This summer marks the 95th anniversary of the Southern Nevada chapter of the American Red Cross.**

A small group of women who would knit socks and caps, roll bandages, and raise money for the war effort during WWI began meetings that led to their being granted a charter on June 14, 1917.

Six years later, the Chapter helped to respond on an international level when they supported the recovery from the 1923 Japan earthquake.

During the Depression years of 1929 - 1934, the Chapter provided temporary shelter, clothing and food to workers who moved here but were overlooked for hire on the new Boulder Dam.

Following, WWII broadened the scope of the Chapter's efforts by not only supporting troops, but offering shelter and care to families that had traveled here to see them. During this time, the Chapter also aided in finding missing service members for their families.

In 1982 the Chapter responded to the MGM Hotel fire and the Pepcon explosion in 1989.



As we close our first century of service here in Southern Nevada, we're spurred by the excitement of the growth that the Chapter will experience in the coming years.

To all those who've gone before, and all those who continue to support our mission today, we are committed to continuing the service that we've delivered to the Southern Nevada community, ever ready, into the next century.

## Help Can't Wait

### Fire Hurts... Red Cross Helps



Las Vegas resident Jaste-Lyn, 3 years old, clutches a teddybear given to her by the Red Cross as she waits with her grandmother. They lost everything in an apartment fire.

You've probably seen the Red Cross in the news recently. A rash of home fires in recent weeks has affected 119 people - including 12 children. We have provided more than \$29,646 during the month of May alone to help these Southern Nevada families in their most critical hour of need. But we can't do it alone.

Red Cross fire relief services are funded exclusively through local donations. No government subsidies. No federal funding. This means your donations are not only important - they're everything.

Our volunteers continue to respond to disasters, but they can't do it without your help.

Please make a contribution today at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), via mail with the enclosed envelope, or call us at 702-369-3674.

Thank you.

## Reconnection Workshops Presented by Walmart



### New Red Cross Program Helps Returning Military Members Bridge the Gap Between Battlefield and Backyard

Constant deployment is a fact of life in the active-duty military, the National Guard and the Reserves and one that families must learn to manage.

Picking up the threads of family life after a separation can challenge even the strongest family units following deployment.

Some of these challenges may include:

- Readjusting to partners who assumed new roles during the separation
- Engaging children who have matured and may resent additional oversight
- Reestablishing bonds with spouses, partners and/or children
- Readjusting to the returning service member's daily presence in their lives
- Realigning family decision-making processes
- Redefining family routines
- Coping with long-term health problems following deployment.

To support military families with these transitions, the Walmart Foundation awarded a \$500,000 grant to the American Red Cross. Developed in cooperation with military experts, *The Reconnection Workshops, presented by Walmart*, helps service men and women and their families focus on those topics they have identified as relevant to their transition experience: managing anger, supporting children, building communication, reconnecting with others, recognizing stress, and other topics critical to reunion adjustment. Actively licensed and specially trained Red Cross mental health volunteers facilitate small-group workshops – which are free -- in a supportive, confidential environment.

To learn more about this new, no cost and confidential program visit [www.redcross.org/reconnectionworkshops](http://www.redcross.org/reconnectionworkshops) or call 702-791-3311.

## Red Cross Volunteers Ready to Staff New VA Hospital and Clinics

### Volunteers Most Likely to Assist in Specialty Areas

The long awaited Veterans Hospital is approaching its August 1 opening date. The hospital will serve 45,000 veterans who will go to a centralized location. It will be augmented by 4 area clinics.

The hospital will have a daily need of 500 volunteers to assist with day to day operations. Disaster Director Jeff Brewer detailed that there are “43 [Red Cross] volunteers becoming badged for the hospital. Volunteers will begin working as soon as they receive their badge.”

Some jobs may include helping veterans travel from one part of the hospital to another, clerical support, and working at the information desks.

If you'd like to volunteer, go to [www.redcrosslasvegas.org](http://www.redcrosslasvegas.org).



## Have a Safe Summer with Red Cross Training and Water Safety

### Red Cross Continues a Long Tradition in Offering the Highest Standard of Training

Southern Nevada may be in the middle of the desert, but water safety is a priority here. With the amount of pools and hot tubs in the Valley, as well as Lake Mead, water safety and drowning prevention should be on everyone's mind.

The best way to ensure your family's safety is to enroll them in age-appropriate swim lessons. In addition to training, here are some guidelines for making Water Safety a priority for your entire family:

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone. Even at a public pool or a lifeguarded beach, use the buddy system!
- Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well. Enroll in age-appropriate Red Cross water orientation and Learn-to-Swim courses.
- Never leave a young child unattended near water and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
- Install and use barriers, safety covers and alarms around your home pool or hot tub.
- Establish rules for your family and enforce them without fail. For example, set limits based on each person's ability, do not let anyone play around drains and suction fittings, and do not allow swimmers to hyperventilate before swimming under water or have breath-holding contests.
- Even if you do not plan on swimming, be cautious around natural bodies of water including ocean shoreline, rivers and lakes. Cold temperatures, currents and underwater hazards can make a fall into these bodies of water dangerous.
- If you go boating, wear a life jacket! Most boating fatalities occur from drowning.
- Avoid alcohol use. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance and coordination; affects swimming and diving skills; and reduces the body's ability to stay warm.



For a great online training course, go to [www.homepoolessentials.org](http://www.homepoolessentials.org). It's easy and full of great information for home pool owners.

## Blood Services Move to Las Vegas

### Red Cross To Begin Collections in Southern Nevada

After nearly 30 years of not collecting blood in Southern Nevada, the American Red Cross will begin to expand their blood collections. The Red Cross supplies 9 of the 13 area hospitals.

**One pint of blood can save up to three lives.**

If you'd like to donate, go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), or call 1-800-Red-Cross.



**Territory Sales Representative, Willie Way, donates at our inaugural blood drive in April.**



# American Red Cross

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## Do You Know a Hero?

Do you know someone who has done something extraordinary for someone else this year/ Now is your chance to honor them. The American Red Cross is seeking nominations for the Sixth Annual Everyday Heroes Awards. Every day in our community ordinary people make extraordinary contributions by putting their needs aside to help others. The Red Cross is honored to salute these unsung heroes.

Categories include: Adult Good Samaritan, Youth Good Samaritan, Aquatics, Military, Fire Fighter, Law Enforcement, International Service, Community Impact, Community Service, Animal Rescue and Medical Professional.

The awards will be presented at the Everyday Heroes Breakfast on Tuesday October 9, 2012 at 7:30am at the Paris Hotel & Casino with generous support by Caesars Entertainment, and 8 News Now and their Community Pride Partners - NV Energy and Findlay Automotive Group.

### Nominations

For a nomination form, go to [www.redcrosslasvegas.org](http://www.redcrosslasvegas.org) or call 702-369-3674.



### Nomination Guidelines

Nominations accepted through July 13

Nominees must live in Clark, Lincoln, Nye or Esmeralda counties

Heroic act must have been performed between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012

Hero nominees, their nominators and/or the person who was saved must be available for videotaped interviews during Aug./Sept.

Nominees must be available to attend the Everyday Heroes Breakfast on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at 7:30 am.

