



# The Triumphant Human Spirit Marches Forward

When tragedy strikes, when disaster hits our community, that is when the triumphant human spirit of the Red Cross' volunteers rises to the occasion and helps to lead the way from devastation to recovery. It has been nearly five years since an unthinkable catastrophe struck the Tri-State. In the early morning hours of November 6, 2005, an F-3 tornado created a path of destruction that began at Ellis Park in

Henderson County, hopping the Ohio River striking the Eastbrook Mobile Home Park in Vanderburgh County and continuing into Warrick County before disappearing. Although it was on the ground for only minutes, the damage that was left behind was immense – destroyed homes and buildings, 25 deaths and a community that would be changed forever.

*"In remembering the tornado... one of the community organizations that was present that allowed me and the rest of the rescue workers to focus on the task at hand was the Red Cross. ... I know now that the Red Cross is an organization that our community could not do without and I know it is there for all of us in the face of community or personal disaster."*

**Eric Williams  
Vanderburgh County Sheriff**

Immediately, the Red Cross responded, providing food and supplies to the first responders stationed at the Eastbrook Mobile Home Park, while others started opening an emergency shelter to ensure those unable to return to their homes would have a safe place to spend the night. "I received a call from a volunteer even before I was alerted by Central Dispatch about the tornado," said Joyce Cosby, Emergency Services Director, American Red Cross.

"By the time I arrived at the office, our volunteers were already on site – brewing coffee, loading our Emergency Response Vehicle and readying cots." Cosby went on to say "our volunteers just knew to respond without being called due to the first reports of damage."

Luckily, our Red Cross volunteers turned out in number because soon after many of those affected by the tornado began showing up at the Stockwell Facility looking for information, guidance, food, clothing, first aid and emotional help. Eventually, hours turned into days and the American Red Cross was there through it all to ensure everyone affected received the help needed to get back on their feet. In the end, thanks to your support – 859 families worked with local caseworkers to ensure their emergency needs were met and 100%



**AMID THE DEVASTATION** Red Cross volunteer Jennifer Forshee helps Douglas Morefield go through the contents of his daughter Brandy's home. Tragically, Brandy died as a result of injuries suffered during the tornado.

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For Ray Sullivan, it all began with the Ice Storm

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Thank you to all of this year's participating restaurants for taking part in the Tri-State's largest dine out event

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From the inception, the Red Cross has supported the men and women in the Armed Services

### 5 Teaching and Reaching the Tri-State

Local Chapter trains more than triple the population percentage of national average

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Visit our website [www.evansvilleredcross.org](http://www.evansvilleredcross.org) or call us at 812-471-7200 for more information about giving the gift of time or more

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Evansville Red Cross

## Quad Squad Inspires Blood Donations

"When we look in their eyes, we see hope, we see dreams" are the words Brian Burkett and his wife Jenny utter most often as they stare in amazement at their picture perfect quad squad. Now their four miracle babies are celebrating their third birthday, unaware that the selfless donations of others helped give them the gift of life. Benjamin, Baron, Anna and Allie are walking reminders why blood donations are so critical in our community because three years prior, the complications each faced while in the NICU could have cost them their life if it wasn't for local blood donors.



**BRIAN AND JENNY BURKETT**, and their "quad squad" inspire donors to give blood and save others like them.

"I felt helpless the whole time they were in the hospital, knowing they're just these fragile babies and there was nothing I could do for them," said Jenny Burkett. For six and a half weeks, Benjamin weighing 3.5lbs, Baron weighing 3.4lbs, Anna weighing 3.2lbs and Allie the tiniest weighing just under three pounds laid in the NICU struggling to survive. "When a

baby is born premature, they can not only be underweight and under-developed but most times be anemic and require blood transfusions," said Brian Burkett.

"On several occasions our children had to have blood transfusions and that blood came from the Red Cross, and quite

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## Triumphant Human Spirit continued from front page

was paid for through local donations from our community.

Today, the scars in the earth that marked the path of destruction are healing. Tree branches no longer bear the remnants of homes destroyed. The families touched by this tragedy are moving forward to find the *new normal* of their lives. Many residents of the Eastbrook Mobile Home Park are now settled in to their new homes in the Habitat-built New Haven Subdivision. Yet the date November 6, 2005 is etched on the cold granite of cemetery monuments and in the deepest reaches of the hearts of the survivors across our area. May the triumphant human spirit that has carried our volunteers through tornadoes, floods, ice storms and fires continue to fuel our desire to be there when help is needed most.

### 5 YEARS LATER

In the months and years following the November 6<sup>th</sup> tornado, the American Red Cross continues long-range planning to prepare for the next big disaster – not questioning if it will happen again but when. Thanks to your support, we have worked to upgrade our facility, enter into more shelter agreements with local

*"I am looking forward to taking a Project RED class. It is exciting to know that by investing a few hours of my time taking this class I would be able to help the Red Cross if a disaster struck our area."*

**Dorothy Pergola**  
Red Cross volunteer since 2009

churches, pre-position material resources throughout the counties we serve and train more volunteers to help with any type

*"Each year I teach hundreds of people how to save lives with CPR/AED and First Aid classes for the Red Cross. When I look back to November 6, 2005 as someone who lost their home to the tornado, I know that Red Cross was a lifesaver for me. I don't know how I would have made it without their help."*

**Willie Ruckman**  
Red Cross volunteer since 1988

of disaster, whether it be a devastating tornado, a crippling ice storm, rising flood waters or even a single family house fire. This year, 1,500 volunteers served as Red Cross volunteers, including 177 that are trained to respond to both local and national disasters – ready to serve under the Red Cross umbrella in any community affected by disaster. Volunteers are the backbone of the Red Cross and we couldn't do our job in the community without them, but we know we need more and continue to find creative ways to engage everyday citizens to donate their time to help our community during its hour of need.



**VOLUNTEERS FROM ACROSS THE TRI-STATE** are on hand for the launch of Project RED.

### PROJECT RED

You can help by joining Project RED (Ready Every day for Disaster), a training initiative launched in 2009 after the January Ice Storm to simplify the Red Cross required training and paperwork into one four hour session to ensure when disaster strikes – more individuals are trained to respond with the American Red Cross. Since it began, 17 companies throughout the Tri-State have allowed the Red Cross to train their employees to assist in times of disaster, then when another tornado or ice storm hits – each has the knowledge and skills to wear our vest and assist our clients and community. Want to learn more about Project RED or how to sign up? Visit [www.tristateredcross.org](http://www.tristateredcross.org) and click on the Project RED logo.

*Please join us as we remember  
November 6, 2005*

*Honoring our community's response*

*Saturday, November 6, 2010*

*A Look Back: 10:30 a.m.*

*Luncheon to follow*

*American Red Cross Office*

*29 S. Stockwell Rd.*

*Evansville, IN*

*Please RSVP  
(812) 471-7200*

**92,463** times people in our community turned to the American Red Cross for support in the past 12 months.

**15,184** individuals received important information to prepare themselves and their families to Be Red Cross Ready when disaster strikes.



Ready to Go Emergency Preparedness Kit  
**\$39.95**

**DO MORE  
THAN CROSS YOUR FINGERS™**

Be Ready for Severe Weather and other Emergencies  
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Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
or call (812) 471-7200

**A sound investment in your family's safety**



Deluxe Emergency Preparedness Kit  
**\$69.95**

## Volunteer Spotlight Ray Sullivan



For Ray Sullivan, a deep desire to help inspired him to volunteer. "I had a four wheel drive vehicle and I knew people needed help," Sullivan said. That simple statement

has been the driving force behind Ray's commitment to volunteer his time with the American Red Cross. Most recently, Ray drove an Emergency Response Vehicle to Nashville, Tennessee to respond to area flooding. He also helped drive a four wheel drive vehicle during the Ice Storm, picking up & delivering food to local shelters to ensure over 900 residents in the care of the Red Cross had hot meals and snacks to eat.

If you ask Ray why he volunteers – he'll tell you he enjoys the camaraderie of the Red Cross volunteers and the satisfaction he gets out of helping others. Since returning from Nashville, Ray has also started helping around the building, putting his "fix-it" skills to work on mounting projects. "When I retired last December, I knew I would have time on my hands and decided I needed to use that time to volunteer," Sullivan added. Less than two weeks after completing additional training to become a nationally registered volunteer, Ray found himself deployed to serve meals to thousands watching their homes go underwater in the Music City.

So whether Ray is fixing lights or drains around the Stockwell Facility, or driving a vehicle to help others in need – he's doing so because he "really enjoys helping people" and is another example of the triumphant human spirit that embodies our volunteers because volunteers remain the backbone of our organization. If Ray's story has inspired you to volunteer your time – please contact us, we welcome the chance to have you join our team.

### *From the desk of the Executive Director --*

I joined the Southwestern Indiana Chapter as Executive Director less than a year after the November 6, 2005 tornado. What I found was a group of people, staff and volunteers, that were dedicated to making sure that the needs of their friends and neighbors were met. But more than just dealing with the challenges of the ongoing recovery efforts, these same individuals were planning for the next time the call for help came. What is the key that inspires these people to put the needs of others before their own when tragedy strikes? I believe it is the triumphant human spirit, an immeasurable asset that is carried in the hearts of our Red Cross volunteers.

I have seen this triumphant human spirit manifest itself in the lives of our volunteers time and again. This spirit is embodied in the story of Willie Ruckman, a Red Cross volunteer that lost his home in the November 6, 2005 tornado. Willie had evacuated his home in advance of the tornado, yet he turned around and returned to Eastbrook Mobile Home Park moments after the tornado touched down. For hours he assisted others, rendering First Aid and assisting the first responders with search and rescue for nearly five hours before even assessing his own loss. A few hours later he returned to the Red Cross office and resumed helping others. Only at the insistence of Red Cross staff did he take the time to seek help for his own needs.

As the years have gone by, I have seen this same triumphant human spirit in many other volunteers. I see it from our military caseworkers that take each message request as a personal challenge to ensure that the service member's family has the assurance that the message was delivered, to our local Disaster Assistance Team members that are standing alongside the residents, offering comfort and food, clothing and shelter, as they move from devastation to recovery.

I am proud to say that I am a member of the Red Cross team. We continue to work together with the chapters in our region to see that we are doing our very best to fulfill our mission. Whether it be joining to help other chapters respond to a disaster as we did with the Ice Storm of 2009 or helping to schedule CPR/AED and First Aid training classes in surrounding towns as we do now, cooperation and dedication to serving others is the hallmark of our volunteers.

Because of the hard work of our volunteers and the generous support of our donors, I am confident that no matter the hour, no matter the tragedy, when the call for help comes, Red Cross will answer.

As always, feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Matt Bertram  
CEO, Evansville Region  
(812) 471-7200  
mbertram@arcswin.org

# RU1?

- Friend
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Keep up with the latest information, photos and videos by following these links at

[www.evansvilleredcross.org](http://www.evansvilleredcross.org)

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## Quad Squad Inspires Blood Donations continued from front page

frankly, without those blood transfusions our children would never have survived the NICU or have been able to come home," Brian added. Luckily, each was released from the hospital before their due date and have little to no complications these days except for the minor scrapes and bumps that come during the toddler years.

"Our children owe their recovery to lots of prayer, amazing doctors and the vital blood product they received, I can't say it enough but thank you to the donors who saved my children by giving a part of themselves to help my four little angels," said Jenny Burkett. Today, the Burketts are outspoken advocates of giving blood through the American Red Cross because of how it has touched their lives, four times over. "You never know when someone in our community is going to need blood; after a car accident, for children in the NICU, or for surgery and thanks to the Red Cross we know its always available and that's because of blood donors in the Tri-State area," Brian added. You can help be there for parents, siblings, loved ones or neighbors in need by giving the gift of life

every 56 days. Call 1-800-RedCross or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment to give blood. When you do, remember the four little faces that inspired you to roll up your sleeve and help countless others, because you never know who your donation might help too.

### Donor Center Hours

#### Stockwell Road Facility

Monday: Closed  
 Tuesday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Friday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 First Saturday of each month:  
 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

#### Locust Creek Facility

Third Monday of each month:  
 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543)

## GIVE THANKS,



## GIVE LIFE

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to start a new family tradition of donating blood at our annual ***Give Thanks, Give Life*** blood drive. Please roll up your sleeve and help us ensure that when blood products are needed here in the Tri-State, they are readily available.

**Wednesday, November 24**  
**6 a.m. - Noon**  
**4 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

**American Red Cross**  
**29 S. Stockwell Road**

Presented by:

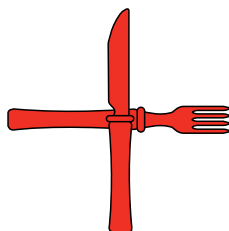


#### EVANSVILLE (EAST)

Acapulco III  
 Bar Louie's  
 Black Buggy Restaurant  
 Bob Evans Restaurant  
 Carousel Restaurant  
 Chick-fil-A Cross Pointe  
 Chick-fil-A Eastland Mall  
 Cold Stone Creamery  
 Cork N Cleaver  
 Crazy Buffet  
 Culver's Restaurant  
 GD Ritz's  
 Geronte's Pizza  
 Great American Bagel  
 Hacienda Mexican Restaurant  
 Jimmy Johns  
 Kipplee's Stadium Inn  
 Lorenzo's  
 Los Bravos  
 Ma T 888 China Bistro  
 Penn Station East Coast Subs  
 Salad World  
 Schlotzsky's Deli  
 Shyler's Bar-B-Q  
 Sirloin Stockade  
 Spudz N Stuff  
 Super China Buffet  
 Texas Roadhouse  
 TGI Friday's  
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## "Let's Dine Out"



For the  
**American Red Cross**

#### EVANSVILLE (DOWNTOWN)

Angelo's  
 Bits & Bytes  
 DiLegge's  
 Emge's Deli & Ice Cream  
 La Sombra  
 Riverview by Firefly  
 Roca Bar of Evansville  
 Stratman's Garden Café  
 Twilight Bistro

#### PERRY COUNTY

Crazy Buffet  
 Ponderosa  
 Rudy's Food n Fuel  
 Tell City Star Cafe

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#### EVANSVILLE (WEST)

Bob Evans Restaurant  
 Cold Stone Creamery  
 El Charro  
 G D Ritz's  
 Hacienda Mexican Restaurant  
 Los Bravos  
 Penn Station East Coast Subs  
 Salad World  
 Sam's Pizzeria  
 Spudz N Stuff

#### EVANSVILLE (NORTH)

Canton Inn  
 G D Ritz's  
 Hacienda Mexican Restaurant  
 Los Bravos  
 Rounder's Pizza  
 Stepto's Bar B Q Shack  
 The Pie Pan

#### DUBOIS COUNTY

Applebee's  
 Circle A - Huntingburg  
 Circle A - Jasper  
 Circle A - Birdseye  
 Circle A - Ferdinand  
 Circle A - Celestine  
 Dairy Queen  
 Pizza Hut  
 Subway - Huntingburg

Please help us to thank these restaurants by choosing to dine at any of the above listed locations throughout the year

2010 Media partners



south central Media



# Always There For Our Armed Forces

## Red Cross' longstanding support of our military

*From its inception, the American Red Cross has held close ties to those serving our country as members of our Armed Forces.* We pride ourselves on our service to the military and our dedication to continually seeking innovative ways to meet the needs of the military and their families. From the 1,618,000 visitors to our Canteen between June 14, 1942 and January 1, 1946 to the veterans that will receive "Totes of Hope" on Veterans Day, we actively work to support the brave men and women who serve our nation.



**RED CROSS LADIES** pose with soldiers in front of the Evansville Canteen in 1944.



**RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS** recruit shoppers to "Adopt A Soldier" in 2008.



**RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS** are on hand to welcome the 163rd home from their latest deployment.



**MILITARY COMPUTER LAB** at Red Cross office went online in early 2010.

## Help the American Red Cross Stuff a Tote for Local Veterans



Donations will be accepted thru  
November 5th at the following locations:



29 S Stockwell Road  
Evansville, IN 47714  
(812) 471-7200



44 Main St.  
Evansville, IN 47708  
(812) 464-4444

Download the list of supplies at  
[www.evansvilleredcross.org](http://www.evansvilleredcross.org)

## Teaching and Reaching the Tri-State

When disaster strikes it often causes those around to pause and examine their own level of preparation. "In the months following the November 6<sup>th</sup> tornado we saw an increase in the number of churches and organizations scheduling classes to learn lifesaving skills like CPR and First Aid," said Mindy Morrow, Health & Safety Director. "This was great to see because the American Red Cross strives to have one person in every household in our community trained to save a life – during this disaster many people had to use those skills to save others around them."

While still fully engaged in the recovery efforts after the tornado, volunteers and staff within the Red Cross Health & Safety Department started scheduling additional classes to meet this demand. "Meeting

the needs of our community has been a guiding force for our growth in the number of trained individuals over the past five years – now training 7.3% of the population versus the national average of 1.9%," Morrow added. The American Red Cross continues to make training available through all possible avenues including instructor-led classes taught 6 days a week and all 3 shifts for businesses. Plus, thanks to online training, individuals can take 80% of the training course online and schedule a skill session to put their training to the test, practice their skills and ensure they retained the knowledge to save another's life if needed.

However, safeguarding our community doesn't just include humans – the Red Cross continues to work to ensure our four legged friends are safe too. Four years after launching Pet First Aid classes, we continue to train a number of dog & cat owners about the importance of knowing how to properly treat your favorite animal if they were to begin choking, stop breathing or suffer any other medical emergency. "Just like a human, we have to be trained to recognize the emergency, respond and assist as

needed to ensure everyone's safety – human or pet," Morrow said. In 2010, the Red Cross started working hands on with local humane societies including the Warrick County Humane Society, to offer training to new pet owners. This partnership will allow an increased number of people to become trained and more aware that man's best



**SHERIFF ERIC WILLIAMS** practices rescue breathing during the first Pet First Aid class in October, 2006.

friend can suffer from an emergency just as easily as we can. "Our goal is to eventually offer training to all new owners who are adopting pets to ensure when seconds matter most they know what to do."

You Can Learn to Save a Life

Enroll in a CPR/AED course by  
calling (812) 471-7200



**American  
Red Cross**  
Southwestern Indiana Chapter

29 S. Stockwell Rd.  
Evansville, IN 47714

Tricia Hollander Henning, Board Chair  
Matt Bertram, Regional CEO

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## How You Can Help

The Red Cross is in need of the following items to help us serve the needs of our community:

- Multipurpose paper 8<sup>1/2</sup> x11 and 8<sup>1/2</sup> x14
- Pastel colored papers 8<sup>1/2</sup> x11
- Ink pens, blue or black ink
- Highlighters
- Dry erase markers and dry erase board erasers
- Letter size file folders, third cut tabs
- Post-It notes of all sizes
- Paper towels
- Bottled Water
- Bottled Gatorade

Call (812) 471-7200 for more information.

Items may be dropped off at Red Cross Office Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

