

# AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH 2013

## A Proclamation

The American Red Cross fulfills a vital role in our community. It prevents and alleviates suffering in the face of disaster and is a true reflection of the humanitarian and volunteer spirit of the American people.

During the month of March, the American Red Cross asks all Americans to join its movement and help carry out its lifesaving mission, with a gift of time, money, or blood. The Red Cross supplies almost half of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; supports military members and their families; and feeds, shelters and gives emotional support to victims of disasters.

For almost 100 years, Presidents have called on the American people to support the Red Cross and its humanitarian mission. In World War I, President Woodrow Wilson ordered the Red Cross to raise funds to support emergency aid to the military. At that time, the Red Cross set a goal of \$125 million and in less than six weeks, donations totaled nearly \$146 million – a tribute to the overwhelming generosity of the American public.

In 1943, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first president to proclaim March as Red Cross Month and called on Americans to "rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross". President Roosevelt's call to action nearly 70 years ago started a tradition of designating March as Red Cross Month, a time to recognize and support the valuable work of the American Red Cross.

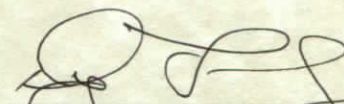
Every day, through its 393 employees and 4,940 volunteers here in South Carolina, the Red Cross is there to save the day when disaster strikes or when a neighbor's house burns down. It is there when someone needs life-saving blood, or the comfort of a helping hand. It connects military families with their loved ones in service, and provides training in CPR, aquatics safety, and first aid. It spreads humanitarian aid and goodwill to people around the world.

Our community depends on the Red Cross and because it is not a government agency, the Red Cross depends on support from the public to continue its humanitarian work. This is especially important in these challenging economic times for the Red Cross and all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dwight L. Stewart, Jr. Chairman of Clarendon County Council, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the **COUNTY of CLARENDON** of the state of **SOUTH CAROLINA** do hereby proclaim March 2013 as American Red Cross Month. I encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the state of SOUTH CAROLINA.



  
Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.,  
Chairman of County Council