

Southwest Florida Chapter Preparedness & Response News



**American
Red Cross**

www.flwestcoastredcross.org

SEPTEMBER 2010

August Community Events

Youth Corps Volunteers During School Break



fair at the Sarasota Square Mall reported over 6,000 in attendance. Four ambitious Youth Corps members, Tiffany Tellbuescher, Charles Cash, Emily Rzonca and Victor Martinez

The annual Ready, Set, Grow family along with volunteer Bob Chalmers worked long hours to provide face painting and balloon animals to the huge crowd. We appreciate our community minded youth who are willing to spend a Saturday during their summer break to represent Red Cross.

Red Cross Sewers & Knitters Visit Mothers Helping Mothers, Inc.



Southwest Florida Chapter's Sewers & Knitters are a talented group of ladies who meet weekly to sew, crochet and knit beautiful afghans, lap robes, wheelchair bags and children's clothing. All of the items they make are then donated to local nursing homes and non-profits in need. On August 18, 2010 some of the group enjoyed a trip to see the Mothers Helping Mothers facility where donations of their baby clothes are greatly appreciated. Mothers Helping Mothers provides clothing, toys, and other essential supplies to low income families free of charge. The Sewers and Knitters delivered 10 boxes of baby clothes, bibs and baby blankets to the volunteers working the distribution facility.

Military Support Group Welcome Home Dinner



Just back from Afghanistan, Shayne (front left), with his sister and mother (next to him), is welcomed home by the military support group

Our chapter supports the community by hosting a Red Cross military support group for family and friends of service personal serving overseas, particularly in areas of conflict.

Formed in 2003, the group continues to gather for monthly dinner

meetings.

To the delight of everyone joining the August dinner, the night turned into a celebration when Shayne, recently back from Afghanistan, joined his mother and sister for dinner. Everyone was delighted to welcome him home.

Community Partnership Meeting Benefits Our Region



Facilitator Smyther Fallen, Sr. Associate Partner Services American Red Cross National Headquarters, presents to the group of community partners

Building community partnerships is an ongoing process for the American Red Cross. Our objective is to establish collaborative relationships that contribute to coordinated disaster responses. This helps to ensure inclusive and effective service delivery.

Recently our chapter hosted a regional community leadership meeting for Manatee County, Charlotte County

and the Southwest Florida Red Cross Chapter areas.

The meeting enhanced our relationship with established partners along with new ones who joined the group. Over thirty representatives from faith based, community, government and civic organizations attended to learn how to better serve our communities.

Full Scale Live Exercise Be Ready to Respond!



September 21st



Southwest Florida Chapter Assists Local Family To Obtain Holocaust Information



Receiving news from the Russian Red Cross; Mr. Szapalik and daughter Monica

The Southwest Florida Chapter received a Holocaust tracing request from Mr. Szapalik for verification that he was sent to a Russian labor camp for two years in 1940. Proof of being a Prisoner of War (POW) enables him to have POW status for full VA benefits.

To Mr. Szapalik's delight our chapter recently informed him we had a letter from the Russian Red Cross verifying his incarceration. For thirty years Mr. Szapalik tried to obtain the infor-

mation he needed to no avail. Upon hearing that the American Red Cross offered tracing services through the Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center, he turned to the Southwest Florida Chapter for assistance.

Now Mr. Szapalik at age ninety is grateful to the American Red Cross and all the efforts from the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolson, Germany, the Central Tracing Service in Geneva, Switzerland and the Russian Red Cross Society for their diligence on his behalf.

About the Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center:

The American Red Cross Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center is the national clearinghouse for per-

sons seeking the fates of loved ones missing since the Holocaust and its aftermath.

The center links the person initiating a request at an American Red Cross chapter with hundreds of state archives, museums and organizations throughout the world through the worldwide network of Red Cross societies and the International Tracing Service (ITS) located in Arolsen, Germany.

Administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the ITS is the largest repository of Nazi documentation in the world housing over 47 million records. The American Red Cross also helps individuals in other countries locate loved ones believed to have immigrated to the US.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY BANK:

Opportunities posted each month, see attached information sheet

Preparedness and Health & Safety Services Department seeks Call Center Volunteers

The chapter's Health & Safety Department is establishing a call center to share its products and services with current and potential business partners in Sarasota County. Volunteers are needed to call and survey companies to help obtain current contact information. Training starts in September and the call center will open in October.

YOUTH CORPS Leadership Volunteer (s) Needed

We are looking for adult leadership for our Chapter's dynamic Youth Corps.

If interested in any of these opportunities or to hear about additional volunteer opportunities, please contact Kathy LaPietra, Director of Volunteers at Lapietrak@usa.redcross.org or 941-379-9300 ext 226. Volunteer interview and selection process beginning now.

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING

379-9300 x 254

Or Desmondc@usa.redcross.org

Disaster Assessment—Fundamentals

(Second of two classes for national DA team. Prerequisite is to take the online course before this class)
Thu, 9/16/10, 5-9:00pm (3244349)

Fulfilling our Mission

Fri, 9/24/10, 1-4:30pm (3065086)

Mass Care

Tue, 9/21/10, 5:30pm-8:30pm (3065132)



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2001 Cantu Court
Sarasota, Florida 34232
941-379-9300

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