LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

MAY 2020

Latest from Youth Leaders

We’re back with another edition of YouthWire! As COVID-19 continues to affect all of us, we want to encourage you to look out for each other, stay connected with your friends virtually through video and audio calls, and volunteer from home to continue your social engagement. Additionally, as we navigate remote Club engagement, be sure to check out our brand-new resource, Red Cross Clubs in a Virtual Setting. This comprehensive document will help you carry out Club responsibilities and finish the school year on a strong note, while continuing to support mission-critical needs.

This month we are excited to share some incredible opportunities for you to take your Red Cross involvement to the next level. National Youth Council applications are now live! We are looking for youth volunteers between the ages of 16 and 24 to represent and advocate for Red Cross youth across the country for a two-year commitment. If you have at least two years of experience with the Red Cross and are passionate about the organization, make sure to apply by May 15, 2020. We highly encourage you to attend our upcoming Crash Course Call on May 8, at 7:30 p.m. ET, to learn more about the Council and the application process.

Vaccinate a Village

We are excited to share our new and improved Vaccinate a Village Activity Guide as a spotlight initiative for the month of May! This is an easy and effective fundraising activity that you can do from the comfort of your home. Together with your friends, you can become Measles and Rubella Initiative advocates, while raising money to help vaccinate families across the globe. We encourage you to support this initiative by fundraising virtually with this Vaccinate a Village in a Virtual Setting Guide.

The American Red Cross is a major partner in this lifesaving initiative and has already supported the vaccinations of thousands of children in many high-risk countries to protect them from these deadly diseases. However, over 117 million children are now at risk of not receiving the measles vaccine due to COVID-19 surges. This activity guide includes a helpful step-by-step checklist and additional resources to run your event and save even more lives.

Young Adult Spotlight: Feeding Efforts during COVID-19

Matthew Martinez (left); Alec Nelson (right)

Matthew Martinez and Alec Nelson, young adult volunteers from the Los Angeles Region, have been working with the Los Angeles Unified School District Feeding Program, which is helping to distribute food during the shelter-in-place. These two volunteers were inspired by the resiliency of their community and the fundamental Red Cross principle of humanity and decided to act.

After signing in, checking their temperatures and receiving a briefing, volunteers wash their hands, put on hairnets, gloves and aprons and start to pack meals. After each meal is packed and counted, it is either sent to a school cafeteria or handed out to community members waiting in cars in a makeshift drive-through. Alec and Matt learned a new way that the Red Cross practices humanity in its communities and were reminded that we can all make a difference, no matter how young or old we are!
If you aren’t already, follow us on social media to get updates on an exciting upcoming contest related to this activity, complete with prizes and giveaways. The contest will be announced in early May.

For those supporting youth engagement, be sure to tune in to our next Youth Consortium Call on May 12 at 3:00 p.m. ET, to hear from the experts about how youth can get involved with the Measles and Rubella Initiative. Email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org for registration details. We will also be discussing this initiative on our next Crash Course Call for youth volunteers, so mark your calendars and join us!

Expand Your Knowledge

For disaster survivors and workers, providing relief involves creating a compassionate environment, assessing what a person might need at a time, and providing immediate support to those in stressful situations. You can learn more about what goes into these situations by exploring the Psychological First Aid Training here.

What is YouthWire?

Created by your National Youth Council, YouthWire is a monthly e-newsletter containing important Red Cross youth volunteer opportunities, stories, and resources for youth, young adults and youth champions! We are always looking to highlight great stories and want to hear what awesome things are happening in your region!

Let us know what’s new for you!

Questions about youth volunteering with the American Red Cross? Email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org

Get Social and Share!

Follow our Facebook and new Instagram page for updates, events and reminders!

Facebook: @AmericanRedCrossYouthNetwork

Instagram: @americanredcrossyouth

Share this newsletter with your peers and friends or have them email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org to subscribe to our newsletter.

Please check with your local Red Cross Region for available opportunities. You can always log into Volunteer Connection and review positions under the ‘Opportunities’ tab as well.

World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day

May 8 – the birthday of Henry Dunant, founder of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – is World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day! This is a joyous time to celebrate our volunteers and staff around the world, whose life-changing services ensure that we continue to spread the mission of preserving human dignity and alleviating human suffering.

Annually, 1 in 65 people across the globe receive aid and services from more than 11.6 million active volunteers and 450,000 staff. Together, Red Cross and Red Crescent teams not only respond to emergencies-such as earthquakes, conflicts and health epidemics-but also help neighborhoods prepare for future disasters and provide lifesaving services like collecting blood donations.

On this day, we celebrate the strength and reach of our global network. Click here for more information on the American Red Cross International Services.

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