



Latest from Youth Leaders

Affecting an estimated 100,000 people, sickle cell disease (SCD) is the most common genetic blood disorder in the United States. Although no easily accessible cure exists, frequent blood transfusions, especially if they come from donors of the same race or ethnicity, can help prevent or alleviate symptoms associated with SCD. However, for the Black and African American individuals that make up the vast majority of SCD cases, the supply of compatible units cannot keep up with hospital demands.

To help resolve this gap, we are thrilled to partner with [16 historically Black colleges and universities](#) (HBCUs) across the country in an ongoing virtual blood drive challenge. This initiative, which began on June 3 (in honor of blood banking pioneer Dr. Charles Drew) and ends on June 19 (World Sickle Cell Day and Juneteenth), aims to raise awareness and inspire more Black and African American community members to roll up their sleeves and donate blood.

You can participate in this challenge by supporting a participating HBCU of your choice at RedCrossBlood.org/16Days or by [hosting your own blood drive](#). We also encourage you to spread the word about this campaign by sharing it with your family, friends and social network. For more information and resources, check out the [Closing the Sickle Cell Gap Toolkit](#) on the Exchange.



Volunteering in High School and Beyond

Volunteering with the Red Cross is more than just a fulfilling extracurricular activity. It's a journey in which anyone and everyone can grow as people, leaders, and changemakers. For many of us, our stories began when we joined our high school or collegiate Red Cross Club, where we made new connections and many memories. However, if your school doesn't have its own Club, now is the perfect time to begin the process of starting one. The National Youth Council has two great resources available on RedCrossYouth.org that you can check out as a starting point: the [Red Cross Club Resources](#) page and [Virtual Club in a Computer Toolkit](#). Afterwards, make sure to contact a teacher or school administrator who can serve as your advisor and [your local Red Cross chapter](#) for next steps.

If you happen to be graduating high school this year, first of all, congratulations! We hope that you have enjoyed these past four years and wish you the best of luck on your next chapter, college. Speaking of which, we sincerely hope that you will continue volunteering with the Red Cross as you earn your degree. We know the transition can be difficult, so here's [an awesome guide](#) you can reference for how to remain active with the Red Cross during college. Thanks for being a stellar volunteer!

Youth Volunteer Spotlight: Mielad Ziaee



Mielad Ziaee started a language training program for disaster volunteers in the Texas Gulf Coast Region and is also the 2021 Navin Narayan Scholarship recipient

Growing up in Houston, one of the most diverse cities in the country, Mielad Ziaee has always held the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion close to his heart. But during disaster season last year, Mielad realized that many people couldn't access all of the Red Cross's services due to language barriers and knew that something had to be done to remedy the issue.

He found his solution in a language training program. To make it a reality, Mielad and other youth leaders created lesson plans and fun activities to engage students and worked with the Texas Gulf Coast Region's Youth Engagement Specialist to schedule shifts for their classes on Volunteer Connection. This campaign has since grown to teach over five languages (e.g., Farsi, German and Mandarin Chinese) to disaster volunteers.

For volunteers who want to implement their own ideas in their chapter, Mielad encourages them to take initiative. "The Red Cross mission is so expansive – there will always be a way to incorporate your passion."

Congratulations on your achievements, Mielad! We hope you go far on your collegiate journey.

**June Monthly Focus:
Summer Volunteering
Opportunities**

Celebrate & Engage: LGBTQ+ Pride Month



LGBTQ+ Pride Month is here! This month, celebrate and engage our blended workforce by sharing stories of our fellow Red Crossers and encouraging learning about the LGBTQ+ community. Here are ways you can get involved:

1. Read stories of our colleagues: [Rodney Marshall](#), [Hannah Simpson](#), and [Eric Williams](#).
2. Register [here](#) for this month's Cultural Competency Series: "Perspectives of Change – A Decade After the Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on Friday, June 11 at 2 pm ET.
3. Join us for Learning 2 Action: "Anti-racism Action: Changing Systems with Candor, Compassion, and Courage" on Wednesday, June 16 at 1 pm ET. Learn more and register [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**.

Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!

The time you spend volunteering is critical to the American Red Cross. It is important that volunteer hours are submitted through Volunteer Connection so that they can be tracked as part of the overall mission.

Help us tell the story of the incredible impact of youth & young adults have by logging your hours today! Use this helpful [tip sheet](#) to walk through how to submit your volunteer hours on [Volunteer Connection](#)!



[Unsubscribe](#) from YouthWire



Although many Red Cross Club activities pause for the summer, there are still many ways for you to continue engaging with the organization. For example, consider volunteering or interning at your [local Red Cross chapter](#). Departments such as Communications and Disaster Services would love to have more hands on deck. You can also participate in the [Sound the Alarm campaign](#) if your region has shifts available, [volunteer](#) at or [host](#) a blood drive or attend a regional youth event – the possibilities are endless. Furthermore, if these opportunities are not available in your area, feel free to start them yourself. Check out our [Activity Guides](#) page for inspiration and if you have any questions, please email us at YouthInvolvement@RedCross.org.

June Fundraising Highlights



In honor of World Blood Donor Day (June 14), it's time to grab your controller, start up your PC and join [Mission Red](#) to play games, stream hope and help save lives. We are inviting all those interested in putting the fun in fundraising to launch a charity stream fundraiser benefiting the [Blood Saves Lives](#) campaign. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood, and we need your support to ensure that there is a safe and reliable supply.

We suggest using [Tiltify](#), which you can pair with your favorite livestreaming platform (e.g., Twitch and YouTube), to host a fundraiser. To get started, here is a [step-by-step instruction guide](#). We also have loads of resources to help you at [RedCross.org/Gamers](#) as well as cool prizes to win like trophies! If you have any questions, [visit and join the Red Cross Discord](#), follow us on Twitter [@RedCrossGaming](#), or email CharityStream@redcross.org.