



## Latest from Youth Leaders

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, and as an organization that champions diversity and inclusion (D&I), the American Red Cross is reaffirming its support for the AAPI community. In conjunction with this movement, the National Youth Council has [created a video](#) expressing how we stand in solidarity with AAPI individuals. We recommend watching it to learn more about how the American Red Cross fosters a nurturing and welcoming space for people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. In addition, the National Youth Council will be hosting a Youth Diversity Pledge (YDP) session on May 8 at 6:30 p.m. ET in which we will discuss how to become and empower others to be better advocates of D&I. Register for the event [here](#). Furthermore, if you want to host your own YDP event, feel free to check out our [Youth and Young Adult D&I Toolkit](#).

[National Youth Council \(NYC\) applications](#) will also be closing soon. If you have been registered in Volunteer Connection for at least two years and want to take your Red Cross involvement to the next level, we'd love to see you apply to become an NYC member. Please send in your application, resume, Red Cross recommendation letter and non-Red Cross recommendation letter by 11:59 p.m. ET on May 14, 2021 to be considered for an interview.



## Recognition and Resolution

Summer is just within reach. As school comes to a close, it is important to continue giving energy to our Red Cross Clubs and end an unprecedented year of volunteering on a great note. If you haven't already, we suggest conducting officer elections to begin the transition process to the next school year for your Red Cross Club. Looking back on the past year, we have accomplished so much despite the restrictions of the pandemic. Our fellow Red Crossers deserve to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Red Cross mission – what better way to celebrate them than by organizing a volunteer recognition award ceremony or by leading a social media shoutout campaign? Not only do these initiatives show appreciation for our fellow youth and young adult volunteers, but they also inspire others to further engage with the Red Cross.

## Expand Your Knowledge

Want to keep up with the latest Red Cross youth and young adult initiatives? Every month, we release a landing page on [RedCrossYouth.org](http://RedCrossYouth.org) that features the theme of the month and volunteers who have stories related to it. For example, April's topic was [Hope, Innovation, and Service](#) and shared youth volunteer Pranavi Garlapati's work with the

## Young Adult Volunteer Spotlight: Kyle Jones



*Kyle Jones, a college Red Cross volunteer, recently began a lifesaving legacy as a blood donor.*

Kyle Jones' experience with blood donations began before he was even born. Because he was premature, his mother relief on blood transfusions to safely deliver him into the world. Despite this background, Kyle never thought of becoming a blood donor until last February.

At first, Kyle was nervous about donating, but his worry quickly dissipated after he read up on the process and experienced the support of the kind blood drive staff and volunteers. What really resonated with him, however, was the impact of his lifesaving gift.

[Sickle cell disease](#) (SCD) is a blood disorder that causes red blood cells to become sickle-shaped. These cells not only die early, but also cause life-threatening clots. Most SCD patients are African American or Latinx and greatly benefit from blood transfusions, the most compatible of which come from donors of the same race or ethnicity. For this reason, Kyle strongly encourages everyone, especially those of African American or Latinx descent, to come out, [donate blood](#) and save lives.

Awesome work, Kyle! We look forward to seeing you at future blood drives.

140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Measles and Rubella initiative. To stay updated, visit [RedCrossYouth.org](http://RedCrossYouth.org) at the beginning of each month to learn more about the newest monthly focus!

## 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](mailto:YouthInvolvement@redcross.org)

## Get Social and Share!

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

Facebook: [@AmericanRedCrossYouthNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanRedCrossYouthNetwork)  
Instagram: [@americanredcrossyouth](https://www.instagram.com/americanredcrossyouth)

Share this newsletter with your peers and friends or have them email [YouthInvolvement@redcross.org](mailto: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



The story of the American Red Cross began 140 years ago on May 21, 1881 when Clara Barton founded it to protect the sick and wounded during wartime and give aid voluntarily on a neutral basis. Since then, the organization has grown to encompass five lines of service and hundreds of thousands of dedicated employees and volunteers united in fulfilling its lifesaving mission.

Join us in celebrating the [Red Cross' 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) by embodying the principles of service, innovation, and hope. You can do this by participating in [Sound the Alarm](#), hosting a [virtual volunteer opportunity](#), or [donating](#). Every contribution, no matter the size, means the world to the people and communities that we at the Red Cross help. For more ideas to further your volunteerism, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

## May Fundraising Highlights



With May also being Military Appreciation Month, now is the perfect time to show your love for our service members and their families. We are inviting all Clubs, gamers, content creators, and people who have a heart for supporting U.S. active and retired military personnel to come together this month to raise funds benefiting the Service to the Armed Forces (SAF) mission.

For example, you can make a significant difference by hosting a [charity stream fundraiser on Tiltify](#). For how to get started, check out this [step-by-step instruction guide](#). Fundraisers can win cool prizes like tees, hoodies, and trophies. You can also use this [shareable digital ad](#) to spread the mission of creatively fundraising to support SAF – [Stream Hope and Save Lives](#). If you have any questions, please email [CharityStream@redcross.org](mailto:CharityStream@redcross.org).