



***American Red Cross of Greater Columbus
Announces 2011 Award Recipients***

During its volunteer celebration and annual meeting, the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus (ARCGC) recognized outstanding community members for their volunteer efforts:



Deanna “Dee Dee” English was awarded the Exceptional Volunteer Service Award. Dee Dee volunteers as a driver for the American Red Cross Community Transportation Program where she drives clients to their medical appointments. Since she began driving in 2008, she has logged 760 hours. The people she drives love her.

Sharon Groves is this year’s recipient of the Ann Magnussen Award, which goes to a volunteer registered nurse and is the highest honor of nursing achievement in the American Red Cross. As a member of the Disaster Health Services team, she helps provide 24-hour emergency response to local disasters and ensures that victims have basic necessities. She began volunteering for ARCGC in late 2008. Since then she has been the point person for the disaster action team or health services for 10 to 12 hour shifts each Sharon gives presentations about the Red Cross throughout Ohio and always encourages others to get involved.



Sisters Kim Tolliver and Sharon Groves are co-winners of the Health and Safety Services Award. This award recognizes volunteers whose efforts have led to the expansion and improvement of American Red Cross Health and Safety Services. Each has over 30 years of experience in the healthcare field. This knowledge has helped them to develop and implement new medical protocol. They have also served on the Program Enrichment Committee where their insight has resulted in new initiatives and recommendations to improve operating procedures.



Nicholas Riehl received the Disaster Preparedness and Response Award for his leadership of the Disaster Services Technology team – a team of volunteers that provides computer, phone, and technological communication during disasters. Nicholas personally donated valuable communications equipment and assisted in converting a former closet in the Red Cross basement to a fully operating communications center complete with flat panel monitors and internet access.



Jamie Richardson, VP for Corporate Relations at White Castle, Inc, was named the 2011 Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year for his exceptional leadership in coordinating, motivating, and successfully completing fundraising efforts that contribute to American Red Cross operations. He chaired the Humanitarian of the Year sales committee for the past two years, raising \$548,000 for the organization.



Sheri Tackett, President of Delta Energy and a member of the American Red Cross Board of Directors, was named the Philanthropist of the Year. She chairs a special group of women philanthropists and community leaders who are making a big impact on our local communities with a focused investment of their time, talent and treasure. Members invest \$10,000 annually to support the Red Cross and since launching in 2007, the 20 founding members of our Greater Columbus Tiffany Circle have contributed nearly \$644,000.

Years of Service awards were presented to:

Dennis Morgan for 30 years of service. Morgan currently serves as an Emergency Services volunteer. He worked on the Hurricane response in 2006 and volunteered for three weeks at the World Trade Center following 9/11. Morgan has been the Red Cross representative for the Ohio Emergency Operations Center for the last 25 years.



Jan Lenko for 30 years of service. Lenko first aid and CPR and has spent time as a member of the First Aid Services Team. Jan is a two-time winner of the Exceptional Volunteer Service Award. He has also been a financial donor for at least the past 19 years and is a member of the Clara Barton Society since 1997.



Jim Leonard for 35 years of service. Leonard began his association with the Red Cross in 1976 at the Allen County chapter. During the blizzard of 1978, Jim used his radio skills to line up snow mobiles to deliver blood from the Fort Wayne, Indiana Blood Center to two hospitals in Allen County. He's been part of the Disaster Services program ever since, serving locally and on more than 27 major disaster relief operations.



Joan Bird for 45 years of service. Bird currently serves as an Emergency Services volunteer and is a member of the Community Awareness Team, marching in parades and providing information at health fairs around town. During her years of service, she has also taught babysitter's training, first aid and CPR and served as a volunteer in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and several other national disasters.



John Mount, known as "Dean Mount" by generations of Ohio State students, has been a Red Cross volunteer for 60 years. After graduating from The Ohio State University in 1941, John served our country as a naval Officer, received an advanced degree in Madison, but escaped back to Columbus soon after. He served as a professor and held four different vice presidencies until he took his "sort of" retirement in 1983. In his "sort of" retirement, he continued to serve the University in many Emeritus positions. After years of Red Cross volunteer service, Dean Mount was elected to the Board in 1973, became a lifetime "Emeritus Director" in 1995, and continues today to support the chapter. Michael Carroll, CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus said, "A few years back someone wrote a book about our "Greatest Generation"; John Mount should have been on the cover." Through his lifetime he has served his country, his university, and his community with quiet distinction ... never looking for the spotlight ...always putting his own interests second.

Visit columbus.redcross.org to learn how **you** can become a volunteer.