



# Making a Difference in your neighborhood



American  
Red Cross  
of Greater Columbus

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## Red Cross Responds to Disasters Across the Globe and Here at Home *Families rely on your support in their darkest hours*

No matter where disaster strikes, your support ensures the Red Cross will be there.

On March 11, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck Japan. The earthquake and resulting tsunami devastated Japan's northeast coast. The American Red Cross contributed an initial \$60 million to the Japanese Red Cross Society, providing relief to those left without homes and basic necessities. Central Ohio residents donated more than \$55,000 to the relief efforts, including more than \$15,000 that was raised by NBC4 4's Army telethon.

The Japanese Red Cross, highly experienced with two million volunteers, distributed relief items, offered hot meals and provided medical transportation.

They continue supporting shelters and have deployed 425 medical teams.

Here at home, we experienced severe flooding across the state in March. In central Ohio, residents in Marion, Morrow and Galion counties were forced from their homes as a result of rising waters. During the flooding Red Crossers provided financial assistance to 43 families, opened three emergency shelters and distributed 210 flood clean-up kits. Your support means people get shelter, food, clothing and comfort immediately after disaster strikes; whether they are around the world or in our backyard. On behalf of citizens here and around the world who turn to the Red Cross in their time of need, thank you.



**Above:** A Red Cross worker cares for a child in a shelter in Japan.

**Below:** Red Cross volunteers helped countless families whose homes were heavily damaged by spring flooding.



## When the Umbrellas Go Up, Don't Let Your Guard Down



The most common natural hazards affecting Ohio are floods, tornadoes and severe winter storms



Thirty-nine tornadoes were reported in Ohio in 2010



This time of year we are so delighted to see warm weather approach, it becomes easy to forget that spring has its threats. Increasing temperatures change the dangers of ice and snow into thunderstorms, flooding and tornadoes. Keep these tips in mind when the spring showers start:

Know the difference between a watch and a warning. A watch means that inclement weather is possible. A warning means that the weather is going to occur or is already occurring.

When tornado sirens sound, this means a tornado has been sighted and you should seek shelter

immediately. If you are inside, go to a basement or interior room to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. If caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building. As a last resort stay in your car with your seatbelt on and crouch low.

Floods can take anywhere from hours to days to develop. Flash floods can develop in only a few minutes. During threat of flash flood, act quickly. Evacuate immediately to higher ground; if your car stalls in water abandon it.

Prepare before severe weather threatens. Visit [columbus.redcross.org](http://columbus.redcross.org) to learn how you can easily **Be Red Cross Ready**.



**American Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus

## Your Red Cross IMPACT

07/01/10-03/31/11



Medical trips for seniors..... **11,876**



Families assisted after fires ..... **328**



Financial assistance provided to disaster victims..... **\$135,233**



Individuals trained in CPR/First Aid ..... **15,102**



Emergency messages conveyed on behalf of military families ..... **323**

## Residents Turn Out to Learn Hands-Only CPR



**A father and son team learn how to save a life.**

On March 19th, the Red Cross hosted "Gabrielle Giffords Honorary Save-a-Life Saturday" to honor those affected by the tragic January shooting in Arizona. Locally, more than one-hundred people took part in the training, learning hands-only CPR and essential first aid skills for free, thanks to generous support from Walgreens and Safeway.

"The tragedy in Tucson was a reminder of how important it is for everyone to know first aid and CPR," said Michael Carroll, Red Cross CEO. "As this tragic event unfolded, several bystanders knew these vital skills, which helped save the lives of many victims, including Congresswoman Giffords. The more people who know these life-saving skills, the safer our community will be."

Visit [columbus.redcross.org](http://columbus.redcross.org) to learn about the variety of CPR and first aid courses available, including hands-only CPR.

Disaster Relief & Preparedness • Service to Military Families • International Tracing Services • CPR & First Aid Training • First Aid Services Team • Water Safety Instruction • Blood Services • Community Transportation

# columbus.redcross.org



The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

# MISSION

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