



American  
Red Cross  
of Greater Columbus

# Making a Difference

in your neighborhood

995 East Broad Street | Columbus, Ohio 43205 | 614.253.2740 | columbus.redcross.org

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## Fire destroyed their homes; your support gave them hope

On a Monday morning in April, residents of an East Fifth Ave. apartment complex awoke to words everyone dreads ... "fire, get out now!" While all twelve residents made it out safely, they watched as their homes and belongings were destroyed by the blaze. A Red Cross volunteer who responded to the fire that morning, recounts her experience:

"The tenants were huddled together across the street from the blaze when we arrived. They had been roused from their beds by a young man who was passing by and noticed the fire. We sprung into action distributing blankets to these people wearing only what they had slept in.

These people had so little, and what they did have was now charred or destroyed in the fire. I was especially taken by one gentleman who I saw taking his belongings out of his apartment. His little pile of belongings sat on the sidewalk. As I looked into the one-room apartment, I saw a water-soaked mattress leaning against a wall, soggy insulation covering the floor and beautiful blue sky through the only "ceiling" that was left - charred 2x4's. I reminded him that the Red Cross would help him buy a pair of shoes. Upon hearing this he gave me a smile that was SO BIG it was hard to imagine he had lost nearly everything just hours before."

*"I am really grateful for the Red Cross. I can't tell you what their help means to me."*

Darryl, Kirkland, Columbus



**Ted Durkee (left), disaster assessment team volunteer, with Darryl Kirkland on the morning of the apartment fire.**



**A member of the disaster assessment team inspects the damage.**

Four of the eight apartments were destroyed and the remaining four suffered smoke and water damage as a result of the fire. More than \$7,800 in Red Cross assistance was distributed to the victims for clothing, shoes, food and a safe place to stay for the first few nights following the fire. For many, including Darryl Kirkland, the sight of the Red Cross was a welcome relief. "I don't have any family in the area. Without the Red Cross, I don't know how I would get clothes to wear to work or where I would sleep tonight," said Darryl.

Because of your financial support, Darryl was able to go to work knowing that he had somewhere safe to spend the night.

Fires are the most common disaster in the US, and in greater Columbus, Red Cross volunteers respond to nearly 400 home fires each year. The weekend prior to this apartment fire was a busy one for the Red Cross, with volunteers responding to six fires affecting thirty-two people over a four-day span. More than \$10,500 was distributed to help these seventeen families buy food, clothes and find a safe place to stay following fires that destroyed their homes. Your support of the American Red Cross continues to change the lives of others and it is our hope that, in the process, it has changed your own. Thank you.

# MISSION

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.



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## Your Red Cross IMPACT

07/01/08-05/31/09

-  Medical trips for seniors..... **17,292**
-  Families assisted after fires..... **500**
-  Financial assistance provided to disaster victims..... **\$230,327**
-  Individuals trained in CPR/First Aid ..... **20,029**
-  Emergency messages conveyed on behalf of military families..... **542**

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

## Summer Weather Safety Tips

Summer has officially arrived and so has the risk for heat-related illnesses. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 400 Americans die each year due to summer's sweltering heat. Everyone is at risk when temperatures rise above 90 degrees, but the elderly and the very young are most susceptible to heat and heat-related illnesses.

Keep these tips in mind to stay safe this summer:

- Dress for the heat.
- Drink water.
- Eat small meals and eat more often.
- Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity.
- Stay indoors when possible.
- Learn Red Cross first aid and CPR.

As part of its mission to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies, the American Red Cross educates residents on preventing dangers including heat-related illnesses, home pool and water safety, fire prevention education and more. Visit [columbus.redcross.org](http://columbus.redcross.org) to learn about how to stay safe this summer and throughout the year.



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