



Making a Difference in your neighborhood



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Management Partners LLC
Craig Wallace, Cranel, Inc
Jeff Walton, ABITEC Corporation

Michael Carroll ext. 2258
Chief Executive Officer
CarrollM@usa.redcross.org

Kurt Anders ext. 2207
Chief Financial Officer
AndersK@usa.redcross.org

Michele Cenci ext. 2318
Chief Development Officer
CenciM@usa.redcross.org

Lynn Cook ext. 2477
Chief Communications Officer
CookL@usa.redcross.org

Red Cross Helps Family Adjust to Son's Military Service *Local mother shares personal story*



Monica Sorrell, a mother of two from London, OH, didn't know what to expect when preparing to send her 19-year-old son, Mark, off to serve his country.

Thankfully, the American Red Cross **Get to Know Us Before You Need Us** program proved helpful.

The program is designed to introduce military members and their families to the services available to them through the Red Cross, including emergency communications. When it might otherwise be difficult or impossible for family to contact their service member, the Red Cross can deliver important messages – like the news of births, deaths,

serious illness, or family emergency on their behalf. With personnel stationed at military installations around the world, the Red Cross communication network is designed to quickly relay emergency communications.

"The Red Cross was very informative," says Monica. "We were late for the meeting, actually missed most of it, and those Red Cross volunteers stayed after and made sure that we heard everything that was covered. The Get To Know Us Before You Need Us program is a great forum to network with other military families. **It gave me the opportunity to ask others who have been through this process before if it is normal for me to feel this way.**"

Monica's younger son, Nathan, age 11, shared a room with his older

brother before he joined the military. "Nathan was just so upset when Mark left," said Monica. "His grades were dropping and it was clear that Mark leaving was having a big impact on him." The Red Cross offered counseling services to Monica's younger son. **"Besides the help, there was great follow through."** Monica says that she has continued contact with the Red Cross. "Sometimes a volunteer will call just to ask how we are doing or if we need anything. The Red Cross volunteers were so personal and warm. They offered their services as well as other websites and phone numbers for agencies that could help us further."

Family members who need to reach loved ones serving in the military can call:

1-800-RED-CROSS

Prepare Your Home and Family

Home fires are the most common disaster that the Red Cross responds to and also the most preventable. In June, July and August, the number of home fires increased with 54% more families impacted than during the same time frame last year.

Families can take a few simple precautions to avoid tragedies, such as having working smoke alarms on every level of their homes and having family fire escape plans in place to get everyone out of the house safely.



When Creating Your Family Escape Plan

- Identify two ways to escape from every room in the home.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.
- Select a safe location away from the home where your family can meet after escaping.
- Consider purchasing strong escape ladders for rooms above ground level and be sure to learn how to use them.
- If you see smoke or fire in your first escape route, use your second way out.
- If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke.
- Before escaping through a closed door, feel the door before opening it. If it is warm, use your second escape route.
- Once you've escaped, stay out.



995 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio
43205-1339
614.253.2740
columbus.redcross.org

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MISSION

of the American Red Cross

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.



Your Red Cross IMPACT 07/01/11 - 09/30/11

- Medical trips for seniors..... 3,768
- Families assisted after fires 126
- Financial assistance provided to disaster victims.....\$41,530
- Individuals trained in CPR and First Aid 7,329
- Emergency messages conveyed on behalf of military families 170

Drive Home Awareness of the American Red Cross

Make a difference in people's lives and show your Red Cross pride by purchasing the "Proud Supporter of the American Red Cross" license plate. In addition to basic registration, this specialty license plate costs an additional \$35; with \$25 credited to your American Red Cross to help with statewide disaster readiness and response.

Don't wait until your renewal comes in the mail, purchase your Red Cross license plate today! Visit any Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles Deputy Registrar's office, go online at OPlates.com or call 1-800-589-8247. Do you lease your car? You can still get these special plates – just call your leasing company and let them know you want to show your support for the American Red Cross.

Thank you for continuing to be a "driving force" for the safety of your family, neighbors and friends in our community and across Ohio!



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

