



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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Brenda Strittmatter, Berger Health
Julie Swick, Battelle
Sheri Tackett, Delta Energy
Kirt Walker, Nationwide
Craig Wallace, Versitec/Cranel
Jim Williamson, Madison County

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

Sharon Carter ext. 2242
Human and Volunteer Resources
CarterSh@usa.redcross.org

Michele Cenci ext. 2318
Financial Development
CenciM@usa.redcross.org

Lynn Cook ext. 2477
Communication and Marketing
CookL@usa.redcross.org

Red Cross comforts mother and son

Fire safety education critical step in saving lives

Like many, Michelle, a single mother living on the city's Northeast side, was without electricity after Hurricane Ike winds knocked down power lines last September. After lighting a candle in the living room, she tucked her 8-year-old son into bed. Instead of coming back downstairs, Michelle accidentally fell asleep, with the candle burning. The resulting fire forced her to make an impossible decision.

Not able to calm her autistic son, Michelle faced the choice: stay and likely both perish in the fire or leave to get help. She chose to get help. After calling 9-1-1, Michelle and her neighbor went back into the smoke-filled home. "I could hear him calling to me and couldn't wait for more help to arrive," said Michelle.

While all were able to escape safely, Michelle was overcome with guilt and shaken by what could have been. She was soon comforted by Red Cross volunteers. "Those volunteers were our angels. They gave my son a teddy bear, wrapped us in blankets and listened."



Michelle and Marcellas Columbus

Thanks to your support, this family had a safe place to sleep, clothes and food after the fire. "I don't know where I would be right now without the Red Cross. I have a newfound respect for your organization and its volunteers," says Michelle.

The American Red Cross uses puppet shows and presentations to help families prepare and practice home fire escape plans. "We know accidents happen. The Red Cross is committed to helping families learn how to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies," said CEO Michael Carroll. Visit columbus.redcross.org for safety tips.

Volunteer reminded of what's important in life

- Jeff Rawlins,
Disaster Action Team



I remember responding to a house fire where a young man lost everything. As we talked, he described hitting "rock bottom" before recently enrolling in college. The fire, which started next door, destroyed his computer and textbooks.

but on their entire family. As we helped him into the hotel he said, "I don't know what I would have done if you weren't there."

We helped him with food, a place to stay and resources to begin the recovery process. His grandmother arrived and gave me a big hug. It was then that I realized the impact the Red Cross has, not only on a fire client,

Driving home I realized what a privilege it is to be a part of an organization that has the resources to make such a large impact in people's lives at such a great time of need ... it was also a reminder to hug my family more often.



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of Greater Columbus

Your Red Cross IMPACT

7/1/08-1/31/09

	Medical trips for seniors.....	10,469
	Families assisted after fires.....	351
	Financial assistance provided to home fire victims.....	\$136,044
	Individuals trained in CPR/First Aid ..	11,378
	Emergency messages conveyed on behalf of military families.....	337

Disaster Relief & Preparedness
Service to the Armed Forces
International Tracing Services
CPR & First Aid Training • First Aid Service Corps
Water Safety Instruction • Blood Services
Community Transportation

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, OH
Permit No. 1220

Please join us

On Wednesday, April 22, the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus will present The Ingram Family with the 2009 Humanitarian of the Year award. The luncheon will be held at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join Honorary Chair Dr. Jeffrey Wadsworth, President and CEO of Battelle, in honoring The Ingram Family.

Seats are \$75 and table sponsorships are still available. Call 614.253.2740 ext. 2427 or visit



The Ingram Family
Front Row (l to r): Maryann Kelley, Nancy Sanford. Back Row (l to r) John Kelley, Alice Ingram, Marci Ingram and Bill Ingram.

columbus.redcross.org to register.

Check it out!

Join us as we launch our brand new website! A new look as well as easier navigation should result in you finding what you need when you need it. Log on to columbus.redcross.org. Then let us know what you think!



of the
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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.

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Message from those YOU help

"I was thrilled with what the Red Cross did. It was quite a gift."

-Kathy Crosby, Columbus



Whether serving alongside our military men and women in times of war or answering a frantic Mother's call at home, serving military members and families was the first mission of the Red Cross in 1881 and remains a priority today. Thank you for supporting our work and for easing the stress for military Moms like Kathy.

columbus.redcross.org

