

Mission Statement

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian led 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.

American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

Founded in 1916, the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) Chapter upholds the national Red Cross mission, to help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters. For more than 90 years, this Chapter has responded to the needs of nearly 3.9 million people in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties. The work of the SEPA Chapter is made possible thanks to the volunteers who donate their time and money to help fulfill our mission. Whether it's responding to disasters as part of our Emergency Services department or participating at health fairs to distribute information, Red Cross volunteers are there.

What We Do

- **Community Preparedness & Disaster Education** – *educate children with important preparedness and health and safety messaging through a variety of age-specific topics*
- **Disaster Relief & Recovery** – *provide relief to disaster victims in their time of need*
- **First Aid/CPR/AED & Water Safety Training** – *keep communities, individuals and workplaces safe with health and safety training courses*
- **International Tracing & Messaging** – *connect families to loved ones with whom they may have lost contact*
- **Personal Emergency Response Service** – *allow seniors to live independent lives through the use of an emergency response system, Lifeline, that can be worn as a pendant or bracelet*
- **Nurse Aide Training** – *prepare students for careers as nurse assistants through a four-week intensive course*
- **Red Cross Clubs** – *empower high school students by teaching the Red Cross mission, providing health and safety trainings, and building community through an after-school club program*
- **Red Cross House** – *provide shelter, meals, counseling, financial assistance, and housing search assistance to disaster victims in our one-of-a-kind, temporary housing facility*
- **Services to the Armed Forces** – *connect military families by sending emergency messages to loved ones serving in the armed forces*

Last year, the SEPA Chapter:

- Responded to 750 fires, floods and other disasters;
- Housed 885 people, including 306 children - for an average 3-week stay - at Red Cross House;
- Provided 2,265 Armed Forces Emergency Services to 1,561 military families;
- Trained and certified 120,353 people in lifesaving techniques;
- Reached 1,361,515 people with Red Cross educational outreach;
- Mentored students in 15 Red Cross Clubs in the region; and
- Supported Lifeline personal emergency response for 2,066 vulnerable older adults.

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Media Contact:

Dave Schrader

Director of Communications

P: 215-299-4042

M: 267-246-4463

E: dave.schrader@redcross-philly.org



**American
Red Cross**

Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

Red Cross Clubs

The American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter helps empower children of today to become leaders of tomorrow by allowing them to give back to their communities through their involvement in Red Cross Clubs.

Red Cross Clubs offer students opportunities to learn Red Cross training, strengthen leadership skills, and develop a sense of social responsibility and citizenship. The Red Cross Clubs Program began in September 2003 at ten high schools in the School District of Philadelphia. Since then, it has grown to 356 members at 15 schools.

Through meetings – generally after-school – Club members learn Red Cross trainings, including HIV prevention, Disaster Preparedness, First Aid and CPR, and International Humanitarian Law. Red Cross Clubs also assist young people in developing critical negotiation skills, meeting service-learning requirements, increasing awareness of post-secondary education options, and exploring career opportunities.

With support from Red Cross staff and Teacher Sponsors, members are encouraged to share their knowledge with peers, other youth, family, and community members through a variety of activities, including “Red Cross Days,” service projects, and other events during the school year and summer.

Club members are a vital part of the Red Cross volunteer team. In the 2008-09 school year, 608 Red Cross Club members were trained as junior instructors. They in turn trained 6,910 of their peers and younger youth in these critical skills. At the same time, the Red Cross Club program mobilized 920 youth to serve 6,537 people through community service projects including fire safety walkthroughs, food drives, diversity training and blood drives.

Participating Schools:

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| Bodine High School | Frankford High School | Philadelphia High School for Girls |
| Bok High School | Franklin Learning Center | Philadelphia Military Academy at Elverson |
| Carver High School of Engineering & Science | Lincoln High School | Philadelphia Military Academy at Leeds |
| Dobbins High School | Martin Luther King High School | Randolph Career Academy |
| Edison High School | Overbrook High School | Sayre High School |

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The American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter provides disaster relief assistance to individuals and families affected by fires, floods, and other disasters in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. Red Cross' disaster relief focuses on meeting immediate needs, such as shelter, food, clothing, and health and emotional care services. In the last five years alone, the SEPA Chapter responded to 4,195 disasters, providing tens of thousands of people in the region with care they needed to begin anew.

Disaster relief and recovery services include:

- **Mass Care** – Services are offered to communities or groups of people who are simultaneously affected and/or displaced by a disaster. These services include sheltering, mass feeding and direct distribution of relief supplies.
- **Family Services** – Red Cross caseworkers provide free disaster assistance to individuals and families on a case-by-case basis. Direct assistance is often given in the form of client assistance debit cards, used for purchasing clothing, groceries, medication, and other needs.
- **Disaster Health Services** - The chapter has a corps of trained nurses, paraprofessional personnel and other individuals with appropriate first aid training and experience who provide emergency and preventative health services to disaster victims and workers.
- **Disaster Mental Health Services** – The Red Cross has a corps of trained and licensed workers who provide emotional and mental health assessment, supportive counseling, and referrals to those affected by disaster.
- **Welfare Inquiries** – The Red Cross acts as a liaison to connect those affected by a disaster with their family members both in and out of the affected area.
- **Spiritual Care** – Disaster relief goes beyond financial and physical assistance. To help heal emotional wounds, trained counselors and clergy are available to meet with victims at disaster scenes and throughout the recovery process.
- **Red Cross House** – Owned and operated by the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, this 33,000-square foot temporary housing facility in West Philadelphia is the only one of its kind in the country. Red Cross House is a dependable resource for disaster victims, lending structure while families rebuild their lives.

All disaster relief and recovery services are free of charge and made possible thanks to the generosity of donors. For more information, call our emergency operations center, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year at 215-299-4889 or visit www.redcross-philly.org.

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The Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) Chapter of the American Red Cross prepares people to save lives through health and safety education and training. From First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and Bloodborne Pathogens training to swimming, lifeguarding, and babysitters' training, American Red Cross' preparedness programs help people lead safer and healthier lives. Last year, the SEPA Chapter trained and certified more than 122,503 people in critical lifesaving skills.

The Red Cross strives to address the concerns of Americans at home, in the community, and in the workplace. Today's innovative programs include teaching individuals how to use automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to save victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

Classes are offered in both public facilities and workplaces throughout the five counties. Instructor Trainer courses are also available for those who wish to teach lifesaving courses in the community.

To view course listings, register for a class, or schedule a course at your workplace, call 1-800-42-CROSS or visit www.redcross-philly.org.

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Director of Communications

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There is a place in Southeastern Pennsylvania where a neighbor shelters you after a fire, flood, or other disaster forces you from your home. That place is the Red Cross House – the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter’s one-of-a-kind short-term housing facility and service center for victims of disaster. It is the only post-disaster facility in the nation that provides a helping hand at a moment’s notice.

Red Cross House is a two-story, 33,000 square-foot facility located in West Philadelphia. It has the capacity to accommodate up to 120 individuals at a time in 26 private hotel-style suites, keeping families together in a stable, supportive environment. The facility includes casework offices, counseling and training rooms, indoor and outdoor children’s play areas, laundry facilities, storage space for clients to use, and a large kitchen and dining area where clients are served three meals a day.

Clients at Red Cross House work with one of our caseworkers, who helps them develop an individualized, long-term recovery plan. Caseworkers also provide a wide range of services to ensure that families support themselves and return to a normal routine. Services include:

- Expanded counseling, mental health support, and spiritual care.
- Vocational, life skills, and safety training.
- Housing search assistance.
- Financial planning and/or legal assistance.
- After-school and summer activities for children and teens.
- Evening educational, recreational, and special-event activities.

Clients stay at Red Cross House for an average of three weeks, and no family or individual leaves until they have secured stable living arrangements. Last year, Red Cross House welcomed its 2,000th family, celebrated its sixth year of operation, and cared for 885 people, including 306 children, as they began the recovery process.

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The American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter provides Services to the Armed Forces, available to all members of the armed forces and their families. Last year, the SEPA Chapter helped 1,561 families by sending 2,265 messages between families and their loved ones in the military. Both active duty and community-based military can count on the Red Cross to provide:

- **Emergency Communications** – Red Cross communication services keep military personnel in touch with their families following the death or serious illness of a family member, the birth of a child, or other family emergencies. The Red Cross sends messages quickly to anyplace in the world, including ships at sea, embassies, and isolated military units.
- **Emergency Financial Assistance** – The Red Cross may provide financial assistance, either as an interest-free loan or as a grant, for travel expenses during a personal or family crisis requiring the presence of the service member or his or her family. Access to financial assistance may also be provided when there is a demonstrated need for funds for emergency travel, burial assistance, or urgent health and welfare needs such as food and shelter.
- **Counseling** – Military life comes with its own set of challenges. Our Chapter offers confidential services to active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel, and to members of their families. Counseling, guidance, information, referrals, and other social services are available through our worldwide network of offices located on military installations and in civilian communities.
- **Services for Veterans** – The Red Cross provides assistance and information to veterans about the Department of Veterans Affairs. Red Cross workers assist veterans in the preparation, development and effort to obtain evidence to support a claim for financial benefits through the Board of Veterans Appeals.
- **Community-based Military Services** – The Red Cross provides services to members of the Reserves and National Guard, Reserve Officers Training Corps, Recruiters, U.S. Coast Guard, Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, retirees, and their families, whether they're living in local communities or being deployed.

Active duty military and their family members in the United States can contact the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter for help seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at phi@redcross-philly.org or (215) 299-4889.

For more information about our Services to the Armed Forces, visit www.redcrossphilly.org.

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