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*News Release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## Inland Northwest Chapter Celebrates Red Cross Month

*Red Cross is responding to disasters down the street, across the country and around the world.*

**[Spokane] February 24, 2010**— With March proclaimed as National Red Cross Month, the Inland Northwest Chapter is planning several activities to recognize and thank the supporters and volunteers whose efforts enable the Red Cross to respond to disasters down the street, across the country and around the world.

“The Red Cross works tirelessly to be there with help and hope when people need it most—and we are grateful for the public support that enables us to continue our work – here at home and abroad,” said Kevin Piatt, Interim Executive Director. “Our community and our nation depend on the Red Cross in times of need, and the Red Cross depends on the support of people in American to achieve its mission.”

Although major disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and wildfires capture national media headlines, the day-to-day work of the Red Cross often takes place in local communities. In the past year, the Inland Northwest Chapter responded to over 100 local emergencies, assisted hundreds of military families and trained almost 16,000 people in lifesaving skills.

“During Red Cross Month, we want to recognize the valuable supporters whose generosity makes the work of the American Red Cross possible,” Piatt added. “In addition, Red Cross Month is a great time for people to get involved with the Red Cross, such as signing up for a CPR, first aid or another Red Cross course; giving a financial gift that can really save the day when the next disaster strikes, or getting involved as a volunteer.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation in 1943, recognizing the American Red Cross as a true reflection of the humanitarian and volunteer spirit and calling on Americans to “rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross.” Every president since that time has recognized the work of the Red Cross with a Red Cross Month.

In celebration of National Red Cross month, the local Chapter has several activities and events scheduled in March including **the signing of a local Red Cross Month Proclamation by Mayor Mary Verner at the City Council Meeting on Monday, March 1 at 6:00 PM**. The community is also invited to learn more about the Red Cross at an **open house on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The month-long activities culminate with Save the Day, an annual breakfast benefitting disaster relief services, on Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup>.

For more information about upcoming March is Red Cross Month activities and events, please contact Megan Snow, Communications and Marketing Director, at (509) 990-0969 or [snowm@spokaneredcross.org](mailto:snowm@spokaneredcross.org).

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