



**American
Red Cross**

Inland Northwest Chapter

Volunteer Connection

INLAND NORTHWEST RED CROSS

Service to Armed Forces

2009 marked the third year in a row the American Red Cross and Pitney Bowes have teamed up to provide *Holiday Mail for Heroes*. This is a nationwide campaign to collect holiday greeting cards filled with heartfelt messages of thanks and appreciation for our service members, veterans, and their families. All cards were mailed to one central location and then distributed worldwide. Spokane was one of the distribution centers, receiving over 2,000 cards to sort and hand out.

Our sorting event on December 17, 2009 was a success. We had over 25 volunteers, including Red Cross volunteers, staff from Northern Quest Resort & Casino, and a couple from the Boy Scouts. We had a special visit from KXLY who did a highlight of the event on the evening news.

Five students from our Youth & Young Adult Corps had the opportunity to hand-out the cards we received to both active and veteran military members.

They spent time at Fairchild Air Force base handing out cards to active military at both the dorms and the commissary.



Our local veterans at the VA hospital also received holiday cards with heartfelt messages from across the country.

Thank you to those who submitted cards, assisted with the sorting, and distributed cards. Our local military members greatly appreciated it during the holiday season.

Inland Northwest Red Cross Youth and Young Adult Program

The American Red Cross Inland Northwest Chapter is proud to welcome people ages 16-24 into a newly formed youth and young adult volunteer program. If you know someone ages 16-24 who may be interested in giving back to the community through service-learning projects have them contact Llewelyn Johnson at johnsonl@spokaneredcross.org for more information about the Red Cross Youth and Young Adult Corps.

Youth and Young Adult Corps members will have a diverse array of opportunities to be valuable contributors to their community, including:

- Educating the community about personal disaster preparedness
- Becoming volunteer health and safety instructors
- Assisting people affected by disasters
- Starting clubs at schools

What's Coming up at the Red Cross...

A glimpse at our Health and Safety Classes...

Standard First Aid with CPR/AED - Adult

Course Length: 6.5 hrs Fee: \$47

Jan 13	Wed	8:00am - 3:30pm
Jan 19	Tue	6:00pm - 9:30pm (pt. 1)
Jan 21	Thu	6:00pm - 9:30pm (pt. 2)
Jan 26	Tue	8:00am - 3:30pm
Jan 31	Sun	1:00pm - 7:00pm
Feb 4	Thu	8:00am - 3:30pm
Feb 8	Mon	6:00pm - 9:30pm (pt. 1)
Feb 10	Wed	6:00pm - 9:30pm (pt. 2)
Feb 17	Wed	8:00am - 3:30pm

Babysitter's Training (bring sack lunch)

Course Length: 7 hrs Fee: \$45

Jan 2	Sat	9:00am - 4:00pm
Jan 23	Sat	9:00am - 4:00pm
Feb 6	Sat	9:00am - 4:00pm
Feb 20	Sat	9:00am - 4:00pm

For a complete listing of courses for both Spokane and Pullman, call visit us, or log onto our Web sit www.SpokaneRedCross.org.

Business hours are Mon-Fri, 8am to 4:30pm, excluding major holidays. **Prepayment of fees is required.**

Phone: (509) 326-3330 ext. 216 Fax: (509) 326-3336

Office: 315 W Nora Avenue Spokane, WA 99205

A glimpse at our upcoming Disaster Services classes...

- Tuesday, January 12th from 6:00pm-9:30pm: Fulfilling Our Mission
- Thursday, January 14th from 6:00pm-9:30pm: Mass Care Overview
- Wednesday, January 20th from 8am-12pm: Psychological First Aid and from 1-3:30pm: Disaster Assessment Basics. These classes will be held in Usk, WA (Pend Orielle County).
- Wednesday, January 27th and Thursday, January 28th from 6pm-9:30pm Shelter Operations and Simulation (both days required)
- Saturday, February 6th from 9:00am-1:00pm: Psychological First Aid
- Saturday, February 13th from 9:00am-5:00pm: Client Casework
- Saturday, February 27th from 9:00am-4:00pm: Fundamentals of Public Affairs

If you are interested in enrolling in any of these classes, be sure to e-mail Autumn Halliwell at halliwella@spokaneredcross.org or Deanna Shamrell at shamreld@spokaneredcross.org

As a volunteer you have the opportunity to explore other service lines within the Red Cross. If you are interested in helping our community through direct local response to house fires and other local disasters, contact Brenda Lawlor at lawlorb@spokaneredcross.org or Autumn Halliwell at halliwella@spokaneredcross.org for information about joining the Disaster Action Team.



We are excited to announce the formation of the WSU Red Cross Club, which was just started this semester. The club assisted with a Red Cross blood drive on the WSU campus and also coordinated making, signing and distributing cards for the Holiday Mail for Heroes program.

We were also assisted by the WSU Pre-Med Honor Society- Alpha Epsilon Delta. They held a Red Cross Winter Preparedness raffle and sold Red Cross preparedness kits during the month of December.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION...The Inland Northwest Red Cross has made the jump to on-line social media. Follow us on twitter or join us on Facebook to catch the latest Inland Northwest Red Cross updates.

<http://twitter.com/SpokaneRedCross-Spokane> www.twitter.com/PullmanRedCross– Pullman

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Inland-Northwest-Red-Cross/148122471537>



Humanitarian Law and the Red Cross

The American Red Cross is one of only a few corporations in the United States which originally obtained its charter from an official Act of Congress. The Charter of the Red Cross has been revised by Congress over the years, but one of the Red Cross duties and responsibilities required by law has remained the same: to educate the public on the rights and responsibilities that America has under the *humanitarian* “treaties, conventions and protocols” to which “the United States of America has given or may give its adhesion” (36 U.S.C. 300101-111.) The principal treaties involved in International Humanitarian Law are the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, some earlier treaties still in force, and multiple more recent agreements, as well as the customary Law of Nations. The Geneva Conventions themselves require all countries of the world to “undertake, in time of peace as in time of war, to disseminate the text of the present Convention[s] as widely as possible in their respective countries,” so that “the principles thereof may become known to the entire population.” In the United States this education duty falls upon the American Red Cross through its 600+ chapters. In the case of the Inland Northwest Chapter of the American Red Cross, the International Humanitarian Law resources are quite developed in comparison to many other Red Cross Chapters, some of which do not have the resources or personnel to fully fulfill this Congressional duty on the local level. For example, the Inland Northwest Chapter of the American Red Cross has worked with the Spokane School Districts to present an ongoing program of eight monthly forums called *Exploring Humanitarian Law*, which forums comprehensively cover international treaties and obligations of the world community to comply with in established standards of civilized behavior and the respect for the welfare of civilians. The Chapter has also created an International Humanitarian Law library with borrowing opportunities open to the public. Not only teachers, but students, medial professionals, Boy Scouts and the public at large have benefited from the Chapter’s resources in this regard. Five monthly forums in the eight part series will be held in early 2010 on the following topics:

- *Thursday, January 21, 2010: Prisoners of War, Terrorists & Violations of Modern Humanitarian Law Using Two Historic Examples: The British Military During the American Revolutionary War & the Incidents at Mai Lai, Vietnam*
- *Thursday, February 18, 2010: The Scourge of Child Soldiers, Slavery, Genocide, and War Crimes Targeting Women in the World Today*
- *Thursday, March 18, 2010: The Legal & Community Consequences of War Crimes, Including Some of the More Notorious War Criminals In and Out of Prison Today*
- *Thursday, April 15, 2010: The Human Toll of War & War Crimes: Refugees in the World Today and in Spokane*
- *Thursday, May 20, 2010: The Legal Basis for International Human Rights Including the Right to Water, Food, Cultural Identity & Immigration to Avoid Death*

For more information on the places and times of each forum, call 326-3330, ext. 202 or e-mail the facilitator at caskeyj@spokaneredcross.org.

Volunteers...An essential part of our team!

At this time we are in need of administrative help in our Pullman office. If you or someone you know can spend a few hours or more a week assisting in the Pullman office, please contact Lisa Jones at jonesl@spokaneredcross.org or (509) 332-2304