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Chapter asks people to join during Red Cross Month

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March is Red Cross Month and the American Red Cross is asking people to join them in helping those in need by volunteering their time, making a donation, taking a class or giving blood.

"When someone provides a meal to a disaster victim, gives blood, takes a first aid class, or helps someone in the military, they join the Red Cross," Michelle Emmett, executive director, DeKalb County chapter, said in a news release. "We want to say 'thank you' to all who support us. That support enables us to provide help and hope to those who need our assistance."

For nearly 100 years, U.S. presidents have called on people to support the American Red Cross and its humanitarian mission. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first to proclaim March as Red Cross Month in 1943. Since that time, every president has issued proclamations designating March as Red Cross Month.

The Red Cross has been helping people for 130 years responding to disasters, assisting members of the military/veterans, teaching lifesaving skills, and serving as one of the largest blood suppliers in the United States.

In 2010 the American Red Cross DeKalb County chapter helped approximately 4,475 people from DeKalb County, responded and provided assistance to 70 people affected by local disasters and canteened for more than 255 first responders. The chapter processed 45 emergency military calls, taught 1,510 people lifesaving skills like first aid and water safety, and collected 381 blood donations saving up to 1,143 lives.

The Red Cross is not a government agency and relies on donations of time, money and blood to do its work.



DeKalb County American Red Cross has a number of activities planned for Red Cross Month, including:

Friday: Blood Drive – 1-6 p.m. at Northern Illinois University Lutheran Campus Ministry Building, 401 Normal Road.

- Friday-Saturday: Wilderness Survival Course
- Saturday: Community Classes – CPR/AED from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and First Aid from 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m. at the chapter office.
- March 8: Zoll AED machine demonstration – 10:30-11:15 a.m. at the chapter office.
- March 10: Red Cross Red Day – wear red to support your local American Red Cross.
- March 10: 3-6:30 p.m. – Chapter open house in conjunction with Sycamore After Hours at chapter office.
- March 10-11: Babysitting Instructor Course – evening classes time TBD at the chapter office.
- March 16: Citizen CPR – 6:30-7 p.m. (compression only, no certification) at the chapter office.
- March 17: Suter Health & Wellness Fair at Suter Co.

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- March 19: Community Classes – CPR/AED from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and First Aid from 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m. at the chapter office.
- March 21: Blood drive – 11:30 a.m.-4:40 p.m. at NIU Holmes Student Center.
- March 22: Community Expo – 3-7 p.m. at the Sycamore High School Field House.
- March 22: Blood drive – 12-4 p.m. at DeKalb Public Library, 309 Oak St.
- March 23: Booth at NIU Health and Wellness Fair, NIU Student Center
- March 25: Blood drive – 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Century 21 Elsner Realty, 901 N. First St., No. 7
- March 25: Blood drive – 11:30 a.m.-4:40 p.m. at NIU Lincoln Hall, 1151 Lucinda Ave.
- March 25-26: March Canister Campaign
- March 27: Informational meeting for potential volunteers – 1 p.m. at the chapter office
- March 30: Blood drive hosted by NIU Red Cross Club – 1-6 p.m. at NIU Lincoln Hall, 1151 Lucinda Ave.

The chapter office is located at 2727 Sycamore Road, Suite 2A, DeKalb. For more information, visit <http://dekalbredcross.org>.



READER POLL

Which NIU football game that will be played at Huskie Stadium for the 2011 season are you most looking forward to?

- NIU vs. Army
- NIU vs. Ball State
- NIU vs. Kent State
- NIU vs. Western Michigan
- Other

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