

Get to know your Staff

DeKalb County American Red Cross Staff

- Executive Director - [Michelle A. Emmett, Ed. D.](#)
- Emergency Services Coordinator - [Dean Richardson](#)
- Health and Safety Coordinator - [Melissa McAvoy](#)
- Media Relations / Development Coordinator - [Rona Hardt](#)
- Volunteer Coordinator - [Jean FitzPatrick](#)



American Red Cross
DeKalb County Chapter
2727 Sycamore Rd., Suite 2A
DeKalb, IL 60115

Put stamp here

Place Mailing label here

DAT Team News

Date: February 2010

Volume: #5 Issue #1



*Bill Bell of Rock River Red Cross Chapter,
Rockford, IL*

DAT Team—Good wishes to Bill and his family

Here are some comments from the DeKalb Chapter:

My heart goes out to Bill and his dear wife, Nora. All of us here at the DeKalb County Chapter were saddened when we first heard the news about Nora's health situation. Now our hearts are breaking as we face this tough news that Bill is resigning to be with his family. Bill Bell has been such a help to me and our chapter. Bill is a gentle man and a gentleman. Bill's knowledge and personality have been such a blessing to all of us here at DeKalb County including our staff members, especially our Emergency Services Department and our volunteers in that area. I would like to say a HUGE "thank you" to Bill for sharing his gifts with us the past year and a half that I have been at the helm here in DeKalb County. He will be greatly missed.

God bless Bill and Nora. I hope our paths will cross in the future.

Michelle A. "Micki" Emmett, Ed.D.

Executive Director, DeKalb County American Red Cross

I was saddened by the news. I hope, with Micki's or Tracy's or anyone for that matter, would help you put something in the newsletter about Bill's invaluable assistance and expertise to our Chapter through his knowledge, patience and kindness. Bill was my mentor and I will personally miss his helping and guiding hand, along with his sense of humor. So much of what and where our Disaster Action Team is today is a direct result of Bill's influence, we all owe him our gratitude and thanks. Anyone that has taken a class or met Bill can attest to the knowledge and passion that Bill has for the Red Cross and infectiously passes it on. I can't express how much I will miss Bill. I am proud to have Bill as a friend and a colleague. Hopefully we will remain in contact. Feel free to use bits and pieces I have sent you in this e-mail if you choose. Bill and his wife are in my thoughts and prayers.

Dean Richardson

Bill, you are a gifted man; Professional, non-judgmental and approachable.

You are the type of person that exudes strength with a demeanor that is empowering. You do this all with a gentlemen's approach anyone fortunate enough to be led by you would follow with an I can do attitude.

All the traits of a true servant. God bless you and yours, may your light shine through with his peach.

Jayne Youngquist

Bill, we have not yet had the opportunity to meet you, our loss at this point. From all that speak of you, I see that we would have related to each other well.

Your untiring spirit will guide us all and show us the way to help others. we wish only the best for you and your family during these trying times. As I speak for all in the DeKalb Chapter, If there is anything we can ever do, you only need to ask.

All our best

Don & Cindy Janas

Emergency Disaster Team in action

Join our team and help others in need.

*Help save a life volunteer
today!*

News on Haiti

Supervisor's Class

Several of our DAT volunteers have completed the Red Cross Frontline Supervisor's Course given on Saturday Feb. 6th in Rockford.

Here is a list of those who were able to attend:

- **Don Janas**
- **Wendy Corralejo**
- **Stephen Ludwig**
- **Nancy McMenamin**
- **Paul McMenamin**
- **Brad Osborn**
- **Charlie Sharp**
- **Colleen Wei**

Thursday Feb 4th, 2010

Friend -

I just got back from Haiti, after two weeks of volunteering for the Red Cross in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

And I wanted to pass along to you, from all the relief workers there, our thanks for the donations and messages of support so many of you sent the other week.

The work is really rewarding, but because you're so full of adrenaline and fatigue, just focused on working minute to minute, and there's so little communication with the outside world, you can also feel isolated.

Seeing these letters of support, really help because they remind us that people care.

The support keeps us strong, keeps us going and it helps us help others.

And for my friends still in the disaster zone, it helps still.

Thank you.

Winnie Romeril
Volunteer, American Red Cross



Photo: Talia Frenkel/American Red Cross

Placid Dimanche, 61, shows photos of his family to American Red Cross worker Winnie Romeril. Croix Deprez, Port-au-Prince. January 26, 2010.

Be a volunteer today—Call the DeKalb County American Red Cross!

*Help save a life volunteer
today!*

Computer On-Line Training!

Just for kicks!

PS— Cindy and I will be the Leadership trainers for many Officers of the Goldwing Road Riders Association. After our recent trip to Phoenix, AZ we came back with a whole new Leadership training program. The things we have learned there will help us and others not only as Officers in GWRRA, but in any thing we do. That includes Volunteers as Red Cross DAT members. Knowledge is power and with the online training that the Red Cross offers, please take the time to log on their learning site. There is a wealth of information at your finger tips. This also now includes those that signed up for the CrossNet website. I have been surfing this site for days and found so much information, I am on overload. So check it out. If you would like a class on online training or how to access it or even just an over-view please let me Tracy or Nancy know. Maybe we can setup a session.

Disaster On-Line Training: (Red Cross Training System)

After taking the first course for Disaster Training, I am pumped up! It was easy, informative and narrated so all I needed to do was listen. I was however, somewhat disappointed that there is no option to print out the course. This would be helpful for future reference.

No matter though, I was given the option to print out some of the forms used.

If you have not been on the training sight for the Red Cross, you need to make some time and visit. Select some courses and start today.

If you are not familiar with this let me know, maybe we can put together a small training course to use the on-line system.

Your roaming training Gnome— somewhere out there!

Don Janas



Be a volunteer today—Call the DeKalb County American Red Cross!

DeKalb County Red Cross

DAT Team News



DAT Team Stories

- Add your “NEW STORY” here email Don Janas djanas3119@Comcast.net
- For Blood Drive dates see calendar on back page

Give Blood Give Life

BLOOD DONORS ROCK!

- Can't give blood? Organize a drive. Contact the Red Cross to find out how.
- For more information or schedule and appointment call **800-GIVELIFE** or sign up online— www.givelife.org.
- What's an hour worth to you?
- With an hour you can: Stand in line for rock concert tickets.
- Make Friday night plans on the phone
- Listen to a new CD or play a computer game
- Go shopping or:
- You can volunteer to give blood.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross Blood Drive is coming to DeKalb. Stay tuned for more dates to come. DeKalb, IL. Register to donate at



GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE!

www.givebloodgivelife.org today!

NEED YOUR HELP!

We need a Blood Drive Coordinator!

A major thing for us right now is that we REALLY NEED a Blood drive Coordinator.

The volunteer position involves 8-10 hours a week and requires the person to be in the office for a couple of hours twice a week.

We really need someone to focus totally on blood drives. We would like to build up the Red Cross blood drives to about 3 a month and we didn't have ANY in December. We have only one scheduled for January and one in the works for February.

If you think you would like to do this, please contact Rona Hardt at the office. If you can team up with another person that might work as well.

DAT Team News

Date: February 2010

Volume: #5 Issue #1



Get a Kit!

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three days. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours, or it might take days. In addition, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut off for days, or even a week or longer.

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation

Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food

- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both

- Flashlight and extra batteries

First aid kit

- Whistle to signal for help

Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place

- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities

- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)

- Local maps

Cell phone with chargers

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil

DAT Team News

Date: February 2010

Volume: #5 Issue #1



(Get a Kit—Continued)

- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Find out how to keep food safe during and after an emergency by visiting: <http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/>

Make a Plan!

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.

Family Emergency Plan

- Identify an **out-of town contact**. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an **out-of-town contact** may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- Be sure every member of your family **knows the phone number** and has a cell phone, **coins**, or a **prepaid phone card** to call the emergency contact. If you have a cell phone, program that person (s) as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) in your phone. If you are in an accident, emergency personnel will often check your ICE listings in order to get a hold of someone you know. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you've listed them as emergency contacts.
- Teach family members how to use text messaging (also known as SMS or Short Message Service). Text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not be able to get through.

Subscribe to alert services. Many communities now have **systems that will send instant text alerts or e-mails to let you know about bad weather, road closings, local emergencies, etc.** Sign up by visiting your **local Office of Emergency Management web site**.

Planning to Stay or Go

Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is whether you stay where you are or evacuate. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and available information, including what you are learning here, to determine if there is an immediate danger. In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for information or official instruction as it becomes available. For information on staying put or sheltering in place, [click here](#).

Emergency Information

Find out what kinds of disasters, both natural and man-made, are most likely to occur in your area and how you will be notified. Methods of getting your attention vary from community to community. One common method is to broadcast via **emergency radio** and **TV broadcasts**. You might hear a special siren, or get a telephone call, or emergency workers may go door-to-door.

Emergency Plans

Use the **New Online Family Emergency Planning Tool** created by the Ready Campaign in conjunction with the Ad Council to prepare a printable Comprehensive Family Emergency Plan:

<http://ready.adcouncil.org/beprepared/fep/index.jsp>

DAT Team News

Date: February 2010

Volume: #5 Issue #1



Make a Plan! (continued)

Use the **New** Quick Share application to help your family in assembling a quick reference list of contact information for your family, and a meeting place for emergency situations:

<http://ready.adcouncil.org/beprepared/quickshare.html>

You may also want to **inquire about emergency plans** at places where your family spends time: **work, daycare** and **school**. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together in the event of an emergency. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance. Read more: [School and Workplace](#).

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as making an emergency supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or man-made emergency.

However, there are important differences among potential emergencies that will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. Learn more about the potential emergencies that could happen where you live and the appropriate way to respond to them.

In addition, learn about the emergency plans that have been established in your area by your state and local government.

Emergency preparedness is no longer the sole concern of earthquake prone Californians and those who live in the part of the country known as "Tornado Alley." For Americans, preparedness must now account for man-made disasters as well as natural ones. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Are you prepared? Take this quiz to determine your [Readiness Quotient](#).

On June 12, 2009 all full-power broadcast television stations in the United States ceased broadcasting on traditional (analog) airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. Digital broadcasting allows television stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and additional channels. An important benefit of the switch to all-digital broadcasting is that it now frees up new parts of the traditional (analog) broadcast spectrum for public safety communications (such as police, fire departments, and rescue squads). Find out more about whether or not you will be impacted by the digital TV (DTV) transition. Visit the Federal Communications Commission web site here <http://www.dtv2009.gov/>.

DAT Team News

Date: February 2010

Volume: #5 Issue #1

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Blood Drive— NIU Grant Hall South 1— 6 pm

February 12 , 2010

Any questions on the blood drive please call the DeKalb Red Cross Chapter office at (815) 756-7339
Register to donate at www.givebloodgivelife.org today!

Red Cross Movie Night at Sycamore State Street Theatre

Saturday February 13th - Monday the 15th

Sycamore Theatre sponsors the DeKalb County Red Cross by donating the ticket sales to 'Where the Wild Things Are' from Saturday February 13th - Monday the 15th. Tickets are only \$2.00!! For information on Movie times call Sycamore State Street Theatre at (815) 895-3549.

DeKalb B-Ball Rositas & Eduardos Event

Saturday February 20th

Any questions on this event please call the DeKalb Red Cross Chapter office at (815) 756-7339

DeKalb Chapter Volunteer Orientation Event

Tuesday February 23rd

Any questions on this event or to sign up, please call the DeKalb Red Cross Chapter office at (815) 756-7339

Carson's Community Day

Saturday February 27th

Any questions on this event please call the DeKalb Red Cross Chapter office at (815) 756-7339

March 2010 Events

March—Red Cross Month

Red Cross Movie Night at Egyptian Theatre

Wednesday March 3rd (Tentative)

Red Cross Blood Drive

NIU Neptune Hall, Central Meeting Room 1—6pm Blood Drive 18th, 2010

Any questions on this event please call the DeKalb Red Cross Chapter office at (815) 756-7339

Dining for the Red

April 22nd - Thursday

Call for more information

May/June 2010—Annual Meeting