

## **Red Cross Announces 2009 Volunteer Award Winners**

*July 8, 2009* – The DeKalb County American Red Cross recently honored nine outstanding volunteers who have made a significant contribution to the community through Red Cross programs and services in 2008.

The Ken and Beryl Richardson Mission Awards were awarded to the following individuals who fulfilled the mission of the DeKalb County American Red Cross in their community in an extraordinary way:

**Mike Fugate - Health and Safety** Mike has been volunteering for the American Red Cross for over 35 years serving as a health and safety Instructor, a member of the Disaster Action Team, and Chair of the Board of Directors. In 2008, Mike was instrumental in opening and running a shelter for 100 people during the fall flood, and devoted over 50 hours to leading a Wilderness First Aid course and training a group to be certified Red Cross Instructors.

**Jan Ciolino – Health and Safety** Jan is recognized for her work as a new volunteer in recruiting several new businesses to be part of the Red Cross Workplace Training program, which trains employees in first aid, CPR, and AED. Jan has also been active in community outreach, representing the Red Cross at health fairs and other special events.

**Tracy Lesiak – Emergency Services** Tracy has actively responded to several emergencies as a member of the Disaster Action Team, and became Chair of the DAT Team last fall. She has helped build the team by recruiting and training new members, and continues to improve the quality of service that Red Cross clients receive through her leadership.

**Phil Voorhis – Emergency Services** Phil is a veteran Disaster Action Team member who has provided training for new DAT members. He has responded to several emergencies this past year and served as the lead responder when needed. Phil was actively involved in managing the shelter during the 2008 fall flood. Phil also volunteers as a Red Cross health and safety instructor.

**Cheryl Callighan – Fundraising for Disaster Relief** Cheryl organized over 100 volunteers to raise money for Red Cross disaster relief during the annual March Donation Drive. Her excellent organizational skills and positive leadership resulted in donations surpassing all previous campaign totals.

**Paula McDowell – Veterans and Armed Forces** Paula was instrumental in recruiting new volunteers to serve on the newly formed Veterans and Armed Forces committee. The committee hosted their first annual “Support Your Troops” poster contest this spring, and will send the posters and letters to troops from DeKalb County serving in the armed forces later this month.

Michelle Emmett, Executive Director of the DeKalb County American Red Cross, awarded the **Executive Directors’ Award** to two volunteer staff members who performed outstanding service to the chapter: **Dean Richardson and Jean FitzPatrick**. Dean Richardson, a retired DeKalb firefighter, serves as the Emergency Services Coordinator for the Red Cross and is responsible for coordinating disaster relief efforts in DeKalb County. “Dean is someone you can always count on to be calm under pressure and compassionate to people dealing with loss,” said Emmett. Jean FitzPatrick serves as a Volunteer Coordinator for the chapter, and is responsible for recruiting and placing new volunteers to serve in various positions at the Red Cross. “Jean has brought new life into the Red Cross, and does a wonderful job at matching the strengths of our volunteers with the needs of our chapter,” said Emmett.

A new award, the **Ronald G. Klein Pillar of the Community Award**, was awarded to Ron Klein in honor of his service to the DeKalb County American Red Cross. “Ron served on our board of directors, and led the chapter through a critical time in our history,” said Emmett. “We would not be where we are today without Ron’s wisdom, leadership, and dedicated service.” This award will be given to future recipients who have made a significant contribution to the chapter during a critical time, who support the Red Cross as well as other organizations in the community, and who displays the character qualities of integrity, compassion and philanthropy.

*For more information, contact Rochelle Cripe, Marketing Coordinator, at (815) 756-7339.*