



American Red Cross Monthly News Bulletin for the Month of May



Community Awareness Day

The community awareness day which was held on Sunday the 22nd of March 2009 was a success thanks to all of you. Appreciation certificates were given to our chapter volunteers. Residents of the community were able to obtain disaster preparedness information, blood drive dates, and health safety information. The food was great!

DAT Team

There is still work done to get the DAT team divided into areas near where you live. The teams will be divided as follows:

- ZONE 1
Highland, Munster, Griffith, Schererville, Dyer, and St. John
- ZONE 2
Merrillville, Gary, Lake Station, Hobart, and New Chicago
- ZONE 3
East Chicago, Hammond, and Whiting
- ZONE 4
Crown Point, Cedar Lake, Lowell, Winfield, Leroy, and the rest of South Lake county, Newton county, and Jasper county

A team leader will be assigned for each area. GO DAT TEAM!

2nd Quarter-Indiana State Disaster Meeting

The 2nd quarter-Indiana state disaster meeting will be held at the Indianapolis chapter on June 18th 10am- 2pm EST. A draft agenda will be forthcoming and lunch will be provided. Please contact Beverly if you will be interested in attending.

Free Pandemic Flu Information

The American Red Cross of Northwest Indiana is offering FREE Pandemic Flu Information classes at

our Merrillville location. Classes are scheduled on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 pm, and are free of charge. Interested participants must register prior to the class by calling our chapter at (219) 756-5360.

National Volunteer Week

The national volunteer week was from April 19 – 25 2009. This year theme was “celebrating people in action” It was about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. It was also about taking action and encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change- discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to foster positive transformation.

AmeriCorps Week

National AmeriCorps week was the second full week of May. The program was required by the state to do a special project for the week. This year; in keeping with our program’s emphasis on disaster preparedness – the project was a Community Disaster Education Blitz during the week of May 10 – May 16. Each AmeriCorps member was required to schedule a community disaster education presentation during this week. It could be visiting a nursing home, talking to a group of teenagers or tots about fire prevention. Several AmeriCorps members delivered presentations to various organizations. Ebenezer and Camille delivered a presentation at the boys and girls club of northwest Indiana.

Serve America Act

President Obama has signed the Edward M Kennedy serve America Act. The legislation dramatically expands national public service opportunities. The bill target 10 percent to those over 55, and also opens several new doors for senior citizens who want to stay active after retirement. The most significant of this is that seniors; through their service can help their children and grandchildren. Seniors can transfer the annual \$1,000 higher education scholarship to children or grandchildren. This is what AmeriCorps is all about!

Upcoming Events

Several presentation events are planned for the coming months of May and June. There would be a house fair at Americall in Hobart on the 19th and 20th of May from 10am to 4pm, to inform employees about volunteer opportunities at the American Red Cross of Northwest Indiana. A provider fair would be held in Highland. It is hosted by Circle around Families on May 27th from 9am to 1pm.

Specialty Classes

Apart from the general classes offered by the chapter there would be an EMT course that is planned to run from August 17th to December 28 2009. Class hours are 6pm to 10pm Mondays and Thursdays. Interested persons should contact David Whitesell, Health and Safety Officer (219)-756-5360.

SAF Course

Service to the armed forces course would be held at the St. Joseph County American Red Cross in South Bend IN on June 23 and 24 from 9am to 5pm. Persons who are interested should contact Rebekah Go at 574-234-0191 ext. 33 or at rebekahgo@stjoe-redcross.org.

Additional Courses

Beverly went to Peoria, Chicago, and Washington. New volunteers and existing volunteers who are interested in taking additional courses should please visit Regional Chicago Chapters website <http://www.redcross-indy.org/>

Volunteers are also reminded to update their DSHR availability. Also volunteers are reminded that it is the commitment of the chapter to increase her volunteer's capacity. You all are encouraged to invite friends and family members to join to cause as well.

Emergency Drill

There is going to be an emergency drill at Saint Margaret Mercy in Dyer on May 31, the time is yet to be determined. Volunteers are needed at the chapter to answer phone lines and as well as the site of the drill. Please contact Beverly if you are interested.