LEWISTON NO. 1 FIRE CO. INSTALLATION

Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 held its 83rd annual installation banquet on April 16 at its North Sixth Street firehall in the Village of Lewiston. The affair saw the installation and reinstall of Lewiston No. 1 officers, and recognition of many for their years of service to the company. (Photos by Kevin and dawn Cobello, K&D Action Photo and Aerial Imaging)

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National Volunteer Week

American Red Cross recognizes 'crucial support' of its volunteers

Join us and help provide hope to those in need

SUBMITTED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OF WESTERN NEW YORK

National Volunteer Week is April 17-23, and the American Red Cross of Western New York honors the work of its volunteers who give their time to help people in need.

Across the country, more than 300,000 Red Cross volunteers serve their communities by responding to thousands of disasters; supporting the collection of blood to help patients receive the critical care they need; aiding members of the military and their families; helping communities prepare for emergencies around the globe; and much more.

Volunteers make up 90% of the Red Cross workforce. Throughout the week, Red Cross staff will hold a number of drive-thru appreciation events at its chapter offices to meet with volunteers and express their thanks with a token of their appreciation.

Across the American Red Cross of Western New York's 27-county footprint, more than 2,100 volunteers help their community.

"National Volunteer Week is time to honor all of our volunteers for their constant service and support," said Nick Bond, regional CEO, American Red Cross of Western New York. "They are true heroes who give their time day and night to help their local community."

Last year, Red Cross of Western New York volunteers provided food, shelter, comfort and hope to 1,597 local families who faced emergency situations. They trained 37,735 people in lifesaving skills and provided 3,487 services to military members, veterans and their families.

Top 3 Most-Needed Volunteer Positions

The need for volunteers has never been greater, as we experience larger and more intense disasters across the country. Please consider becoming a Red Cross volunteer to help families in need. We'll provide all of the training you need – visit redcross.org/volunteertoday to learn more.

√ Shelter Support Team: During large disasters, these volunteers support the day-to-day activities such as welcoming and registering residents; helping with meal service; distributing cots, blankets and hygiene supplies; and providing information and other assistance within a shelter. If the need arises, volunteers are asked to commit to multiple local shifts of four to 12 hours each. For those able to travel, a commitment of at least 14 consecutive days, working eight- or 12-hour shifts is required.

√ Disaster Health Services Team: These volunteers use their professional skills as a licensed health care provider to deliver hands-on care and education to shelter residents during a large disaster. Our free online training can count toward nursing continuing education units. If the need arises, volunteers are asked to commit to multiple local shifts of four to 12 hours each. For those able to travel, a commitment of at least 10-14 consecutive days, working eight- or 12-hour shifts is required. Qualified licenses include RN, LPN, LVN, EMT, paramedic, MD, DO, PA, NP, APRN. Only RNs have full scope of practice.

√ Disaster Action Team: While big hurricanes and wildfires get the most news coverage, smaller disasters such as home fires are no less devastating to those affected. That's why we need volunteers to help comfort and support local families in need by providing food, shelter, clothing or supplies, and connecting families to recovery assistance.

Just as disasters happen every day, the need for blood is constant. The Red Cross is also recruiting for critical volunteers to support our work to ensure hospital patients have access to safe, lifesaving blood.

You can help save countless lives as a blood donor ambassador. These volunteers check blood donors into their appointments, answer questions and give out post donation snacks. Got a bit more time? How about joining the team of volunteers who drive the blood from donors to the patients in hospitals? Transportation specialists support hospital patients by delivering blood from Red Cross facilities to local hospitals.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, visit www.redcross.org or www.CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow on Twitter at @RedCross.