

Volunteer Voice: OC Red Cross Volunteers, Staff Hit for Haiti

By Daisy Hendrickson



American Red Cross volunteers preparing to canvass the Indian Wells Tennis Garden for donations as part of "Hit for Haiti." Photo by Daisy Hendrickson.



Prior to the event's start, the tennis garden audience paid tribute to servicemembers and law enforcement personnel. Photo by Daisy Hendrickson.

Editor's Note: On March 12, the BNP Paribas Open hosted "Hit for Haiti," an exhibition tennis match featuring Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Steffi Graf, Lindsay Davenport, Martina Navratilova and Justine Henin at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

The match was a resounding success and, with the support of Larry Ellison and Oracle, raised \$1 million for the American Red Cross Haiti relief and Development Fund.

Though it took place in Riverside County, the Orange County Chapter was actively involved in its success. Chapter staff helped coordinate the event and CEO Stanley Perdue welcomed the nearly 16,000 tennis fans in an on-court appearance.

But it would not have been possible without the generosity shown by Orange County volunteers who travelled to the desert to ensure a massive Red Cross turnout.

Volunteers from the Riverside and Orange County chapters canvassed the stands collecting donations and also staffed information/donation booths around the facility. In this month's Volunteer Voice, Daisy Hendrickson shares her thoughts:

When I was invited to the "Hit for Haiti" event, I did not hesitate to say, "YES!" The BNP Paribas Open seemed like the perfect opportunity to give of my time and help. While I know nothing about tennis,

and even though some of the most famous tennis players in the world would be playing at the event, raising money for Haiti was my purpose in volunteering.

Although the devastation in Haiti might seem as if it is a past disaster, when I see the media pictures of the people and children in Haiti and the bravery and strength that keeps them going, my desire to do whatever I can to help is always in the forefront of my mind.

On March 12, I joined an incredible group of Red Cross volunteers and boarded a bus bound for Riverside County.

Despite the gnarly traffic, I had fun taking pictures of the energy windmills in the desert and the majestic San Jacinto Mountains. What a beautiful day it was!

The bus dropped us off at the Riverside County chapter, where dinner awaited us. Riverside's kindness and thoughtfulness in getting us prepared for our duties at the BNP Paribas Open was greatly appreciated. Without their organization, it would have been an impossible task.

I felt like a little girl getting ready to go to Disneyland as I anticipated 15,000 tennis fans digging in their pockets.

My fondest memory is of two 5-year-old brothers

holding out their little hands filled with cash, as they waited for the bucket to be passed to them. Their eyes were fixated on the video of Haiti and tears came to my eyes as I saw them watching the Haitian children and families. I saw how much they wanted to help; their hands full of hope. They each received commemorative buttons that signified their contribution.

Tired, but still exhilarated from the evening, we were able to watch the match, if that's what you call it.

While I don't know much about tennis, I do know about the trust people have in the American Red Cross and can say, "I am so proud to be a part of this organization."

When I got back on the bus to head home, I said to some friends, "When can we do this again?" Arriving home after midnight, all I thought about were those two little boys and wondered what little Haitian boys would not be able to sleep tonight.

That is when I am so grateful for my blessings and look forward to doing whatever it takes to help the Red Cross be the nation's best organization.

This experience gave me renewed belief in the generosity of the American people; the hope that through the Red Cross, WE can make a difference, in the weeks, months and years it will take to rebuild the Haitian communities.

Red Cross Day at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos

By Matilde Gabriela



Service to the Armed Forces volunteers Bonni Korn and Debra Valdana staff the Red Cross Day booth.

The Service to the Armed Forces team hosted its First Annual Red Cross Day at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base on March 14.

Representatives from throughout the chapter collaborated to show our military families that the Red Cross is more than donating blood or providing emergency communications.

On this day, Red Cross Youth Clubs from Fountain Valley and Los Alamitos high schools were involved with volunteers engaged in mass care, communications, welfare information and community ambassadors displayed various aspects of what the Red Cross does.

Throughout the JFTB Veterans Center were displays – a disaster response vehicles with a shelter trailer, cots with blankets, an information table with

emergency preparedness materials.

The continuity of operations trailer was set up with computers and printers to help people print out a customized family emergency plan from www.redcross.org/beredcrossready. Pet First Aid presentations and a CPR and First Aid class rounded out the offerings of the day.

Our guests enjoyed lunch served by our mass care folks and youth using the ERV and canteen. Representatives of the professional soccer team Chivas, Barks of Love, Treasure Box, Angel Ministries, Cypress Police Department fingerprinting and United Through Reading displayed information about their organizations.

Military Family Readiness representatives, JFTB Fire Department personnel and Army Reserves came to our event and all learned something new about the Red Cross. The highlight was when 51 young men from the Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy, who live on base, joined us. The young men were not familiar with the Red Cross but throughout the day they engaged in conversations with our team and even participated in face painting and made bracelets!

At the end of the day, our Red Cross team left knowing they had made an impression on these young men, who asked how they too could become members of the Red Cross!

Red Cross Day was a team effort! Thank you to our volunteers from SAF, community ambassadors, mass care, communications, welfare information, health and safety and 40 youth from our Red Cross Clubs!

Welcome to new volunteers

Eric Alvarado
Shannon Arender
Robert Boyce
Meiling L. Campillo
Stephanie Dobyns
Megan Fanning
Hughes Hoang
Bobbi Holtom
Patrick Hunter
Elizabeth Keeler
Charbel Khalaf
Maheen Khan
Monica King
Amy Leonard
Karen Lynaugh
Sandy Nguyen
Michelle Pennington
Elizabeth Petterson
Bernard Reed
William Rose
Serena Safdari
Kenna Schoenherr
Leila Shams
Theresa Slader
Mary Soltero
Mindy Stone
Julie Tolentino

Letters for Haiti

The financial development department had the pleasure of reading many heartwarming letters from children to the people of Haiti offering them support, well wishes and hope. Here is one we would like to share with you:

1-19-10

Dear People of Haiti,

I am really sorry that the earthquake destroyed much of your country. I feel sad that your homes, hospitals, and schools are crumbled down from the earthquake. Our school is going to give money to the people of Haiti and the soldiers are going to give you food, drinks, and medicine. I hope that thousands of people will feel much better when help arrives safely to Haiti.

Sincerely,

Vincent from California

Alphabet Soup

IRF – International Response Fund

DRF – Disaster Relief Fund

H4H – Hit for Haiti tennis fundraiser



ROCK 'N' RUNWAY!



April 17, 2010
4pm - 7pm
Villa Park
Performing Arts Center

For more info, contact
youth@oc-redcross.org

*All proceeds benefit
Youth Services.*



Dates to Note

Apr. 17 – Super CPR Day

Apr. 17 – Rock 'n' Runway Youth Event

May 22 – Volunteer Luncheon and Recognition

Jun. 3 – Bravo for Bravery



Shout Outs

Marlyn Reynoso and **Will Meek** for staffing the Pet CPR booth at the SAF Los Alamitos event!

Colleague **Michael Lee** for great support of Service to Armed Forces Function.

Thanks to **Michael Lee**, **Tony Pointer** and **Ray Greenwood** for helping middle school students with a last-minute interview/filming request. You rock!

Thank you **Richard Pham**, **Kathy Blanning**, **Randall Ijam** and **Madelyn Spiegelberg** for all the support and heart they put into working with and for volunteers!



Linh Nguyen, member of the chapter's board of directors, who spearheaded and organized the Viet For Haiti Concert, raising over \$38,000 for the Red Cross Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund

John Duong, of the chapter's board, who worked with Lee's Sandwiches to facilitate a \$20,000 donation for the Red Cross Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund

Alyssa Starkey for hosting A Night of Art and Humanity showcasing Red Cross programs and services and local artists' photographic works.



Knowing CPR and First Aid could save someone's life.

Get trained for only \$10 each class at the 6th annual [Super CPR Day](#) on Apr. 17, 2010 at Angel Stadium in Anaheim.

Staff Members Recognized for Exceptional Work

By Will Meek

Orange County Chapter CEO Stanley Perdue and COO Janet Whitcomb expressed their appreciation to employees during the annual staff recognition luncheon on March 19 over New York-style pizza and Amelia "Shorty" Hernandez's famous and delicious cake.

Stanley and Janet personally acknowledged and thanked each employee for their contributions, sacrifices and hard work. Marsha McNamara was presented with the Volunteer-Employee Partnership Award, which recognizes strong and effective partnerships between chapter volunteers and employees.

Service Awards were given out to Carlos Corchado, Seila Heng, Tassos Giannikos, Tony Pointer and Ishell Linares for one year of service; Tamara Durica, Christine Lopez, Ryan Murillo, Michael Lee and Alan DeFever for five years of service; Rick Allan, Loryn Hutchins and Evana Gendron for 10 years of service; Anne Mitchell for 20 years of service; and Bill Stout for 30 years of service.



For more information on chapter meetings, events and projects please click the following link for [April Function News](#)

A visit by the Chief Nurse

By Tom Woodard

On March 1, the chapter hosted a small meet-and-greet session for Sharron Stanley, PhD, RN, the chief nurse and director of disaster health and mental health for the American National Red Cross.

Stanley was visiting the Orange County area to help develop new curriculum for a national university system, but wanted to take the opportunity to meet her Red Cross counterparts in Southern California while she was here.

Orange County Chapter staff invited representatives from all of the Southern California chapters

and, in all, more than 20 people representing 10 chapters attended the event.

Stanley shared with all of us her vision for Red Cross Health Services and Nursing going forward in to the future and listened to the feedback of several of those that attended.

Prior to joining the Red Cross, Stanley was the Program Director for the Ohio Center for Public Health Preparedness in the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University

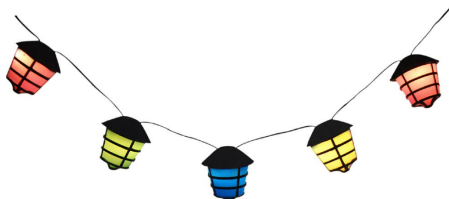
Please join us for a Recognition & Luncheon

honoring

Volunteers

Saturday, May 22, 2010
12 to 2 p.m.

Details to follow



Product of the Month

American Red Cross
Mini Lantern
~~\$9.95~~ \$7.00



Item # 321331

Light up your night with the multi-purpose mini lantern from the American Red Cross! Designed for those times when you need a safe and portable light source for recreational fun, this compact, water-resistant lantern is ideal for use in outdoor family activities like camping, boating – it floats! -- walking or just relaxing with a book in your favorite hammock. Requires four AA batteries for operation. Batteries not included.

There is still time to submit your Bravo for Bravery nominations!

Do you know someone who truly went above and beyond to save a life? Perhaps a friend, neighbor or co-worker?

Honor their courage by submitting their name to the Bravo for Bravery committee. Contact Ishell Linares at (714) 481-5366 or ilinares@oc-redcross.org or visit our website at www.oc-redcross.org for a nomination form and return it to us by April 15.

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Questions, comments or something to submit for next month's issue?

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