



**American  
Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

## **President Obama Proclaims March "Red Cross Month"**

*Governor Strickland encourages citizens to support the Red Cross*

**Monday, March 2, 2009** — March has officially been declared Red Cross Month by order of a Presidential Proclamation signed by President Barack Obama, marking the 66th time the month of March has been celebrated in honor of the organization. The proclamation reads, in part:

*The Red Cross has continued to serve those suffering from large- and small-scale disasters. The organization is best known for its work helping communities deal with major disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and wildfires. These large-scale disasters represent a major part of the work of the American Red Cross. Just as important are the tens of thousands of small-scale disasters that occur every day in communities nationwide, and the volunteers who respond to them. These efforts include supporting our military and their families, collecting and distributing blood, helping the needy, delivering health and safety education, and providing aid abroad.*

Governor Strickland also issued a proclamation and encourages everyone to support their local Red Cross chapter. The proclamation reads, in part:

*Each year during the month of March we formally recognize the American Red Cross and its essential humanitarian role in our community. We honor the role of the Red Cross's contribution to making Ohio a better place. This year we focus on the spirit of the volunteers, donors, partners and employees who support the Red Cross mission of humanitarianism.*

March has been known as Red Cross Month across the country since 1943, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued the declaration in support of Red Cross efforts to raise funds for World War II services.

In honor of Red Cross Month, the Red Cross will launch the first-ever national **Change a Life contest**. The contest will run from March 2-16, 2009. The public is invited to visit [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org) and tell us how a Red Cross experience changed their life or someone else's life. The grand prize winner will win a two-night trip for two to Washington D.C. to join Keith Urban and his band on August 20th as they play their Escape Together World Tour concert. The package includes backstage passes and a tour of the National American Red Cross Disaster Operations Center. The second place winner will receive a 52" Philips HD LCD television, DVD player and a library of Red Cross preparedness and safety DVDs.

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. Sustained by over 600 volunteers, the Red Cross provides assistance to more than 500 families each year after home fires and other disasters strike. Last year the organization trained and educated more than 97,000 area residents in vital lifesaving skills like first aid, CPR and how to prepare for emergencies. The Red Cross also sent more than 800 emergency messages between members of the military and their families. The community transportation program provides rides to medical appointments for seniors and individuals with disabilities, logging more than 19,600 trips last year. All these programs and more are made possible by the donations of time and money from the greater Columbus community. Michael Carroll is the CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus and Mary Navarro serves as the board chair.

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