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AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER NEWS OF THE WEEK

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**North Treasure Coast Chapter  
American Red Cross  
Annual Meeting 6/24/09  
Award Presentations**

**Terry Johnson** – Retired from both National and Chapter American Red Cross – she has leant her expertise in Financial Development as well as entertaining us on many occasions with her Comedy Routine. Terry will continue to volunteer in Disaster Services with her PR and Fin Dev expertise.



**Partnership Award** - This award is presented to a news organization that has gone above and beyond each year to keep the citizens of the Treasure Coast informed of all issues pertaining to hurricane preparedness. It is with deep civil appreciation that we recognize the **Hometown News**.



**Rich Kusmer** – came to us during the 2004 hurricanes where he and his family worked as mass care volunteers. Rich joined the board in 2005 and became the chair for the FY08 year. Although he was travelling with his new job, Rich remained passionate about our mission and continued to support the board with his extensive knowledge of business practices.



**Partnership Award** - This year we held our First Annual Hurricane Hangar Party which would not have been possible without the support of Bump Holman and **Sun Aviation**. From the use of the hangar, printing of the flyers, to the help from all the employees, and anything else we asked for we are grateful for their help.



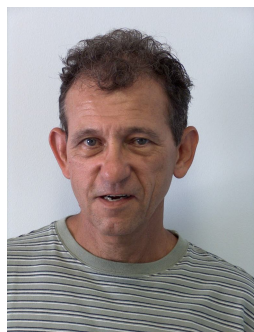
**Partnership Award** – Our thanks go to Madison Hodges and **WQCS**, (88.9 NPR for the Treasure Coast). The station has offered us classroom space for both Health and Safety and Disaster Trainings. In addition, they are always willing to do PSA's for our events. Lastly, WQCS serves as the emergency broadcast station in times of disaster. Hopefully that role will not be needed this year.



**Partnership Award** - Since the early 90's the **Indian River County Recreation Department** has been providing American Red Cross water safety programs in several locations. These programs include water safety instructor classes for those adults who will teach swim lessons to student's age 6 months to adult. In addition they train the lifeguards for pools and beaches in the county. One of their newer programs is a Junior Lifeguard program which trains 11 to 14 year olds to be Junior Lifeguards. This program teaches water safety, first aid techniques, builds self-confidence and helps prepare interested youths for work as lifeguards. Participants learn about beach safety in a fun and challenging atmosphere. This year they will be training over 50 young people. We thank them for their support of the American Red Cross life-saving programs.



**ERV Award** - The chapter is making a new presentation this year in recognition of the service and sacrifice that two individuals continue to make. It is necessary for them to stop their lives on a dime and be ready to answer National's call to transport the National ERV to a disaster within 4 hours of being called. It is with our deep appreciation that we recognize Ken Chapin and Butch Clinton with the ERV Award.



**DAT Award** - Walter Miller A member of the North Treasure Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross for several years. Walter lives in Fort Pierce and is active throughout the community. He is the Co-Captain of Team II, St. Lucie County Disaster Action Team and has served in this capacity since joining the Chapter. Walter is a team player, often filling in for other disaster team members who are away on vacation or unable to respond to fires due to illness or other emergency. Walter is a dedicated and dependable service associate who enjoys helping others in time of need and has been recognized by many who have been assisted by him. Walter is a credit to his community, the Chapter and the American Red Cross and his service and loyalty to this Chapter is greatly appreciated.



**Chapter Ambassador** - Heidi Condon, or should I say "Clara Barton" is being honored tonight as our chapter ambassador. She has gone above and beyond with her Dramatic abilities being Clara Barton at our events. She has also been an ambassador by providing DAT (Disaster Action Team) services as captain of the Port St. Lucie Team. In addition, she produced our excellent Volunteer Public Service Announcements that you see on the Comcast channels.



**Chapter Support** - Judi Backof came to us from Palm Beach where she was an instructor, ERV driver, and a member of the Damage Assessment team. Judi is always ready to help whenever asked. She has been known to spend 2 hours on the concrete in a parking lot in 85 degree temperature demonstrating the AED or bringing the Pet manikins and demonstrating CPR on our animal friends. She is an active member of the First Aid team and is always ready to respond. She is a "volunteer of all trades" – and the North Treasure Coast Chapter is lucky to have her.



**Administrative Volunteer** - It is with great pleasure that we give this award to **Kathleen Turturro**. She has been working in our Port St. Lucie office since November through our partnership with AARP. She has been a humble and sunny customer service representative. She has taken on tasks that are above and beyond the scope of the job, with professionalism and enthusiasm. We are pleased and honored that she has chosen to be the voice and the face of the American Red Cross St. Lucie County Branch Office.



**Preparedness Award - Mike Nolan** has been a volunteer with the chapter for three years. Mike began with the chapter as a Health and Safety instructor and member of the First Aid Team. Recently he has also become a very active volunteer in Disaster services taking on the responsibility of helping to keep our response vehicles in top condition. He has traveled the state for the chapter – picking up a trailer in Sarasota, pallet boxes in Miami and supplies in Orlando to name a few. Mike and his wife Nina also have helped at several of our events including the Hurricane Hangar event. Mike is the perfect example of a volunteer active in both Health and Safety and Emergency Services.



**Agnes S Warhurst Award** - This award, in honor of Agnes Warhurst, is given each a year for exemplary service by a volunteer or volunteers to support the North Treasure Coast Chapter. This year's award is given to a couple who exemplify the values of volunteer service and commitment to their community. She serves as the Disaster Health Services lead, while he has leadership roles in both Material Support Services and Partner Services. They are always willing to do whatever is needed in these roles and much, much more.

Please continue on to the next page  
and read about the

**Clara Barton Volunteer  
Leadership Honor Award  
Awarded to**

## Clara Barton Volunteer Leadership Honor Award

Ray McGowan – Ray first came to the North Treasure Coast Chapter with a contribution for the tsunami. IN 2006, thanks to the McGowan's support among others, the chapter was able to purchase an ERV, the Expedition and two storage trailers for disaster response. Ray joined the board in July of 2006 and was soon deeply involved in our issues, including chairing the Service Delivery Committee as well as working with the staff on facilities needs. Always active in the board meetings, Ray began to spend time with the staff to understand the real issues within the chapter. In the spring of 2007, Ray challenged the chapter to raise half of the funds to improve our infrastructure at which time he would match the funds raised. We were able to raise more than \$300,000, balance the annual budget, equip the chapter with everything needed and even added a pick-up truck to pull the trailers! When he became Chair, Ray challenged the volunteers to support the chapter monetarily with the "Make Ray Pay" Campaign. Over the last two years this matching campaign has raised more than \$27,000 and he has agreed to do it again in FY10! As chair-elect and Chair, Ray has been there for every board event, every volunteer event, every regional meeting and any other time I have needed him. Nothing points this out more than our response to Tropical Storm Fay. Ray was here from the beginning, right through our after-action meeting. He rode the ERV, ordered pizza, delivered cots, manned the phones, met with volunteers and emptied trash. His observations about our processes will serve us well in our next response. All this from a man who responded on his Board intake form that he was NOT interested in Disaster! As Ray's term as Board Chair comes to an end tonight, it gives me great pleasure to present him with the Clara Barton Volunteer Leadership Honor Award. The criteria for the award is as follows:

- Service in a number of leadership positions and personal expertise that has enabled the Red Cross to contribute valuable service to the community.
- Leadership in identifying and assessing volunteer performance and organizational concerns. Cooperation with other paid and volunteer staff in developing and implementing effective solutions in a resourceful and productive manner.
- Constructive guidance to co-workers in the efficient performance of assignments.

**Ray joins only three others who have received this award from the North Treasure Coast Chapter. He is one in a million and a true friend to all of us who have worked with him on a regular basis. Please join me in thanking him for all he has done for our American Red Cross.**

