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## AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER NEWS OF THE WEEK

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To: All Volunteers  
From: North Treasure Coast Chapter  
Subject: Weekly What's Happening  
Date: 12/22/2008

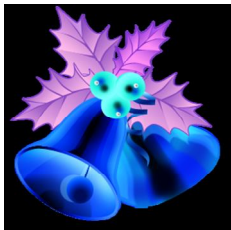
### CHAPTER NEWS

#### Holiday Hours

Closed: December 24<sup>th</sup> through December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Open: Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> closing at  
noon on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Open: Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009



The North Treasure Coast Chapter is a **HIGHLY PERFORMING CHAPTER** for the year ending June 30, 2008. Of the 38 chapters out of the 720 in the country who attained this score, we are the only one in Florida. This rating is determined using six standards including increased readiness and service delivery reach (in Health and Safety and Community Disaster Preparedness) as well as improved fundraising and financial stability. Thank you to everyone, without whom this chapter would not be successful.



We need “beer servers” to man the Beer Stand at Friday Fest in Down Town Fort Pierce, Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5 to 8:30. Anyone interested, please call Heather at 878 7077. All Bartenders get a free Red Cross T Shirt.



**Happy Birthday Clara Harlowe Barton**  
**December 25<sup>th</sup> 1821**

Born on December 25, 1821 in Oxford, Mass., the youngest of 5 children in a middle-class family, Barton was educated at home, and at 15 started teaching school. Her most notable antebellum achievement was the establishment of a free public school in Bordentown, N.J. Though she is remembered as the founder of the American Red Cross, her only prewar medical experience came when for 2 years she nursed an invalid brother.

In 1861 Barton was living in Washington, D.C., working at the U.S. Patent Office. When the 6th Massachusetts Regiment arrived in the city after the Baltimore Riots, she organized a relief program for the soldiers, beginning a lifetime of philanthropy.

When Barton learned that many of the wounded from First Bull Run had suffered, not from want of attention but from need of medical supplies, she advertised for donations in the Worcester, Mass., *Spy* and began an independent organization to distribute goods. The relief operation was successful, and the following year U.S. Surgeon General William A. Hammond granted her a general pass to travel with army ambulances "for the purpose of distributing comforts for the sick and wounded, and nursing them."

She also expanded her concept of soldier aid, traveling to Camp Parole, Md., to organize a program for locating men listed as missing in action. Through interviews with Federals returning from Southern prisons, she was often able to determine the status of some of the missing and notify families.

By the end of the war Barton had performed most of the services that would later be associated with the American Red Cross, which she founded in 1881. In 1904 she resigned as head of that organization, retiring to her home at Glen Echo, outside Washington, D.C., where she died 12 Apr. 1912. **Source: "Historical Times Encyclopedia of the Civil War" edited by Patricia L. Faust**



“Tis the Season to Remember Fire Safety”

Since December 1<sup>st</sup>, the North Treasure Coast has responded to five home fires, four in St. Lucie County and one in Indian River County. A total of 24 clients were provided with food and lodging and a few with clothing. These fires started in the kitchen.

Now is the time to make sure you do what you need to do to:

## Make Your Home "Fire Safe"

Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.

Keep kids away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove.

Keep anything that can catch on fire—pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains—away from your stove top and oven or any other appliance in the kitchen that generates heat.

Clean cooking surfaces on a regular basis to prevent grease buildup.

Consider purchasing a fire extinguisher to keep in your kitchen. Contact your local fire department to take training on the proper use of extinguishers.

Always check the kitchen before going to bed or leaving the home to make sure all stoves, ovens, and small appliances are turned off. **(This was the cause of one of the fires. Individual left to pick up her child at school)**

Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm near your kitchen, on each level of your home, near sleeping areas, and inside and outside bedrooms if you sleep with doors closed. Use the test button to check it each month. Replace all batteries at least once a year. Use the test button to check each smoke alarm once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately. Replace all batteries once a year.

Keep anything that can catch on fire—pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains—away from your stove top.

Designate one person to walk around your home to make sure that all candles and smoking materials are properly extinguished after guests leave.



Hurricane Season 2008 is over  
This is the time to be grateful Hurricane Season 2008  
is over and our season was uneventful.

**Now** is the time to begin thinking of taking the training necessary to prepare for next year.  
Watch for the upcoming disaster training calendar soon to be published.

**The staff wishes all of you the best of holidays and Happy New Year!**

**Indian River County  
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Vero Beach, FL 32960  
772-562-2549**

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540 NW University Drive Suite 107  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
772-878-7077**

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