

## Ten Facts Every Red Cross Volunteer Should Know

1. Red Cross Societies are established in countries that have signed the Geneva Conventions ensuring protection and assistance to noncombatants in time of war: the wounded, prisoners of war, and civilians
2. In each country, there is only one Red Cross society which helps people according to their needs and makes no distinctions based on race, creed, or political beliefs. Each society is a voluntary organization whose programs are designed to prevent or alleviate human suffering.
3. The League of Red Cross Societies is worldwide and provides a means by which people of many countries work together to develop world understanding. The League has the responsibility of providing assistance in all major disasters.
4. The American Red Cross was chartered in 1881 by the Congress of the United States:
  - a. To assist our government in fulfilling obligations undertaken in signing the Geneva Conventions.
  - b. To serve as a link between members of our armed forces and their families.
  - c. To provide relief for victims of disaster and to plan for disaster preparedness.
5. In keeping with broad Red Cross principles and the provisions of the Congressional Charter, American Red Cross programs and services are created to meet human needs and are modified as changing conditions create new needs. Programs and services include:
  - a. Direct assistance to individuals and families in meeting crises and emergencies.
  - b. Courses in safety and health education.
  - c. Youth programs-direct service and leadership development.
  - d. An organizational structure through which people can help one another in their communities ( e.g., nursing homes, hospitals, school health clinics, first aid stations, etc.)
6. The 50 member volunteer national Board of Governors determines policy, programs, and guidelines. The approximately 2,800 chapters implement these programs and policies in accordance with the guidelines.
7. The basic funds for American Red Cross activities are raised in local communities through annual community fund raising efforts. The Red Cross is accountable to the American people for the money it receives. Each local chapter's accounts are audited by an independent auditor.

8. The Blount County Chapter Board of Directors, which is composed of 20 local members, is responsible for funding chapter services and for long range planning. The chapter encompasses Blount Co. Each board member serves on a committee as part of his board responsibility. Volunteer committee chairman works with volunteers and paid staff in the delivery of services.
9. Leadership volunteers in the Office of Volunteer Personnel are concerned with Recruitment, Interviewing, Placement, Recognition, and Awards for all chapter volunteers.
10. The Blount County Chapter has over 500 volunteers and 4 paid staff. This is a ratio of over 125 volunteers to each paid member. These dedicated volunteers give thousands of hours of service annually.

