

RED CROSS READER



A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OF GREATER IDAHO

November 2009

Happy Thanksgiving

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, now is the perfect time for each of us to reflect upon our many blessings. No matter what we are thankful for, be it family or friends, health or homes, every one of us has something to be thankful for this year that enriches our lives in some way.

While I am thankful for all these things, I am also very thankful for all of you, our dear volunteers, supporters, donors and staff, that make our humanitarian mission possible every day. Maybe Ronald Reagan said it best when he said: "The American people understand that there are no substitutes for gifts of service given from the heart."

He was right. From the beginning, America has been a place of humanitarian action and compassion—a place where people take care of each other and are always willing to reach out and take care of others in need whether they live down the block or around the globe. Putting our compassion into action is deeply rooted in the American character. The American Red Cross is a reflection of that truly American character. It's a spirit that's very much alive in Idaho and reflected every day in our own Red Cross chapter.

It's this spirit of service that binds us together when times are tough and unites us in action when someone is suffering. Like a mirror on America, the American Red Cross shows us the best possible reflection of ourselves. In celebrating Thanksgiving, I think we are also celebrating the humanitarian and voluntary spirit across America and right here in Idaho. I often hear from our staff and volunteers that they feel privileged to be part of an organization that helps so many, contributes so much, and is such an ingrained part of the American character. It's a privilege I am proud and thankful to share.

Sue Robinson
Chief Executive Officer



Disaster Relief Fundraiser



On October 2, the SW Idaho Chapter of the American Red Cross held a Disaster Relief Fundraiser. The event was held at Wood River Cellars, located west of Eagle. An inflated jump house was set up for children; two fabulous bands played everyone's favorite tunes; a yummy barbecue dinner and wine tasting was set up in a large tent.

At the donation table, an eight year old young man, Brandon Boylan, proceeded to pull out a small piggy bank and empty its contents onto the table. Brandon decided to bake cookies and sell them as his own fundraiser. He wanted his proceeds to go to the event. Brandon has family living in Indonesia who have been helped by the Red Cross during previous disasters. This was his way of saying "THANKS".

Brandon told the gathering crowd he wanted to be a firefighter. The gentlemen from the Star Fire Department led Brandon out to their fire engine in the parking lot, dressed him in real fire-fighting clothing, including hat, and lifted him into the driver's seat. Brandon's mother said, "On behalf of my little fire fighter, thanks. He is happy that he was able to help a little bit to Red Cross. We definitely would like to join the wonderful Red Cross team."

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Training Schedules and Registration can be located on

www.redcrossidaho.com

Please visit our web site
www.redcrossidaho.org
or call us at

1-800-853-2570 for more information
on how to volunteer or donate.

American Red Cross and Harlem Ambassadors Basketball Show

The American Red Cross of Greater Idaho will host the internationally-acclaimed Harlem Ambassadors Basketball Show on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at BSU's Bronco Gym. Come and join us for an evening of high-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball-handling tricks and hilarious comedy routines which provide quality family entertainment.

The Harlem Ambassadors are a team of talented male and female basketball players that are drug-free, college-educated and positive in appearance, who are committed to serving as positive role models for young people by reinforcing the importance of staying in school and away from drugs.

All proceeds from the show will benefit the American Red Cross of Greater Idaho. Advance tickets for students and seniors are \$5 and general public tickets are \$8. Tickets purchased at the door are \$7 for students and seniors and \$10 for the general public. Children 4 and under are free.

For more information on the show or sponsorship opportunities, contact Sue Robinson at 855-4923.

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Disaster Simulation Like a Real Life Emergency

"When people show up to a shelter, where are we going to place them? Where is the registration area, where is the feeding area, the sleeping area? How many people need to staff each area?" These questions were asked by Jodie Andrew of Red Cross participants at a disaster simulation in North Central Idaho in September.

The simulated emergence involved an earthquake that causes the Brownlee Dam on the Snake River to crack. Emergency personnel send out notice that the dam is in imminent danger of failure and that the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley is about to face a severe flood.

Participants were instantly hit with nervous citizens looking for shelter, food, care for their kids and animals, and comfort. Andrews said even for a drill, it's pretty stressful. The 2-day drill meant participants stayed overnight on cots at the community center. At the end, the group evaluated itself.

