

Non-Profit News

January 27, 2008

By Jennifer D. Ryan

Executive Director

American Red Cross, Lee County Chapter

jryan@leeredcross.org

Never too young to get involved

This week we honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and I was elated to see how many young people participated in commemorative events. This is just one example of how important our youth and young adults are to our community. They remain a constant source of enthusiasm, ideas and energy that we can not exclude from projects and activities.

At the Red Cross we are blessed to have two groups specifically designed to be organized and run by youth and young adults. Club Red is designed for youth ages 12-18 and they are involved with many local projects. Last week they distributed disaster preparedness information in our community. On January 31 they will participate in the Extreme Parenting Expo being held at Northside School in Opelika. At that event they will provide valuable information such as tips for keeping our kids safe.

The Red Cross Campus Club at Auburn University offers college students opportunities to be involved in our community. Currently they are working on a project to hand out flu kits on campus. They are also choosing other programs to support including disaster relief and Project Share, a utility assistance program for the elderly and disabled.

Both groups are putting their money where their mouths are and are participating in the Heroes for Red Cross campaign which raises funds for local Red Cross programs. They have an abundance of creative ideas and seem to be limited only by the number of hours in a day. It is exciting to work with both of these groups and I encourage young people who want to make a difference in our community to get involved. For information on these groups, call the Red Cross at 334-749-9981 or visit our website at www.leeredcross.org.

Time is marching on and many events are coming closer. Please add the following to your calendar:

The Hoggy Doggy Splash will be held at The Reserve Apartments on Saturday, February 2. We are still accepting participants and sponsors for this event. Contact Don Turner, Event Chair, at 334-744-0581 for more information.

Tickets are going quickly for the Chocolate Tasting on Valentine's evening at Eighth and Rail. It is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple. Tickets are available at Eighth and Rail, Flip Flop Foto, at the Red Cross office and on the Red Cross website. I am happy to announce that Jewelry By Design is providing a gorgeous ½ carat diamond to be given

away. Only 100 tickets are available for the diamond drawing. For more information, visit www.leeredcross.org.

Saturday, March 8 is the date for the 5th Annual Fly-In. This event is always fun and has an abundance of aircraft, military vehicles, food and games. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$8 at the gate for adults and just \$2 for kids 12 and under. They will be in retail locations soon, but are currently available at the Red Cross office or at www.leeredcross.org. We are offering Veteran's free admission to the fly-in, but you must pre-register by February 15 for the Veteran's VIP package. Veteran's registration forms have been running in The Opelika-Auburn News and are also available at the Red Cross office or through the local Red Cross website.

My thanks to Jim Rainey and all the staff at the O-A News for their support of our local Red Cross. I hope you have noticed the wonderful Heroes ads that have been running Wednesday through Saturday. It is not too late to join our Heroes Campaign. Call 334-749-9981 to get involved.

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