

## **Non-Profit News**

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### **November is National Youth Involvement Month**

November is National Youth Involvement Month at the American Red Cross. The annual tradition focuses on the contributions Red Cross youth make to the organization. “What a huge gift it is to impart to a young volunteer the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Movement,” said American Red Cross National Chair of Volunteers Kate Forbes. “The principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality are values that volunteers can draw on throughout their lives. There is no better foundation for a lifetime of service that impacts the community, the nation and the world than the Fundamental Principles.”

In 2007 National Youth Involvement Month takes on a special significance, because 2007 marks the 90th anniversary of the Junior Red Cross, as well as the 90th anniversary of our local Lee County Chapter. Youth have been formally involved in the mission of the American Red Cross since September 15, 1917, when President Woodrow Wilson issued a Proclamation to schoolchildren of the United States, inviting them to become members of the Junior Red Cross and telling them they could now share in the “best work of the great cause of freedom.” Ninety years ago the idea was that America’s youth would raise funds, make useful items for children around the world and do all the things that adult volunteers had no time to do. Soon, however, youth volunteers were blended into the mainstream of the organization, an integration of the generations that characterizes volunteerism within the American Red Cross today.

Today, more than 160,000 volunteers age 24 and under help the American Red Cross fulfill its mission to provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Youth and young adults represent nearly 30 percent of all Red Cross volunteers, serving alongside adult volunteers in leadership and governance, blood services, service to armed forces, disaster response, international services and health and safety.

Locally, the Lee County Chapter has two groups designed especially to help youth and young adults get involved with the American Red Cross. Club Red is designed for volunteers ages 12-18. Club Red has been involved with community disaster preparedness, local utility assistance programs, the movement to eradicate measles and more. Their next meeting is scheduled for November 30 at 4:30 p.m. at the Lee County Red Cross office in Opelika.

The Red Cross Campus Club at Auburn University was formed and received its provisional charter in April of this year. This club is designed to serve Auburn University students and to offer students at Auburn a way to get involved with Red Cross programs and services. The Campus Club recently trained 28 club members in CPR. For more information on local Red Cross services or either of these volunteer groups, call the Lee County Red Cross at 334-749-9981 or visit the website at [www.leeredcross.org](http://www.leeredcross.org).

**UPDATE:** Our local United Way Campaign is still going on and is currently at approximately 60 % of their goal. Now is the time to make your pledge for 2008! Call United Way at 334-745-5540 for more information or to schedule your donation.

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