

Lifesaving Awards



American Red Cross
Training Services

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Inspiring Stories by Region

Bystander from the Northern Ohio Region Responds to Horrific Vehicle Crash

Tim Graichen witnessed a vehicle crash and roll over multiple times before landing in a median ditch. At the accident scene, he instructed others to call 911 then managed to pull the driver away from the engine fire. The man was completely unresponsive. He was not breathing and had no signs of a pulse. A nurse arrived on the scene and Tim started rescue breathing while the nurse performed chest compressions. They alternated for more than ten minutes until medics arrived and took over. As the driver was being transported in the ambulance, an indication was given that EMS was able to get a pulse. The story, for which Tim was awarded the Certificate of Merit, is transfixing. Hear it firsthand in this [podcast](#) produced by the region called “Acts of Courage Award Winner Tim Graichen” and hear from the region on its [Facebook page](#).



L to R: Randy Feesler and Tim Graichen are recognized at the region's Lifesaving Awards ceremony.

DCS Case Manager Uses Pediatric Choking Skills to Save A Baby in the Indiana Region

An Indiana Department of Child Services family case manager received the Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders for his quick action to save an infant from choking. Christian Lewis was conducting a supervised family visit in March 2024 when he noticed an infant starting to choke on a snack. As the child's face began to turn blue, Christian used his Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED training to dislodge the food, saving the baby from asphyxiation. It's an amazing story and you can see photos of Christian accepting his award on the region's [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.



L to R: Christian Lewis receives the Lifesaving Award from Sarah Moss, executive director of the Red Cross Central Indiana Chapter.

Four First Responders Answer the Call for Resuscitation Skills in the Connecticut and Rhode Island Region

Four volunteer first responders - John Streiber, Bruce Hoffman, Nicole Caron, and Mitchell LaForge - didn't hesitate when an emergency presented itself. John sprang into action when he heard a call for help about an unconscious man at a workplace. John worked closely to the scene, so responded first. Recognizing the signs of cardiac arrest, he immediately began performing CPR until Bruce, Nicole and Mitchell, all with the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, arrived. The team then provided advanced resuscitation and care. The man was showing signs of improvement as they assisted with the medevac transport. The region's [Facebook page](#) contains an album of photos from the ceremony where each member of the team received a Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action.

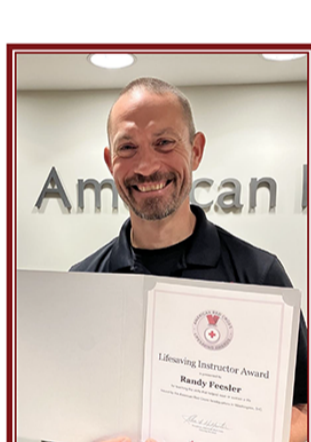


John Streiber, Bruce Hoffman, Nicole Caron, and Mitchell LaForge from the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Instructor Spotlight

Randy Feesler

Each month we highlight an Instructor whose student(s) have used their lifesaving training to save or sustain a life. This month we recognize Randy Feesler, who trained Tim Graichen in Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED. As detailed in the first article, Tim helped provide medical assistance to a severely injured victim of a terrible car crash. We extend our thanks to Randy for providing the quality training that allowed Tim to save a life.

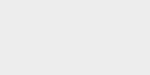


Lifesaving Awards Vault

From the vault of the Fresno Bee (Fresno, California), May 1, 1947



On this date in history, the Red Cross recognized J.W. Thompson with the Certificate of Merit. In March 1946, J.W. began CPR after his brother, Duane, had come in contact with an electric current. Don Williams, chairman of the Merced County Red Cross chapter, presented the award.

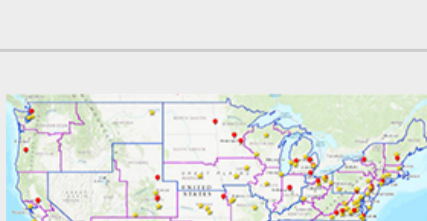


Nominate. Recognize. Inspire.

Saving Lives Starts Here

If you or someone you know has used **skills** and **knowledge** learned in a Red Cross Training Services course to help save or sustain the life of another individual, visit [LifesavingAwards.org](#) to nominate them.

Want to know if you have a local hero in your area? Take a look at our [map](#).



Get Inspired!

September is Preparedness Month. The Red Cross is focused on sharing best practices when moments matter. Two very special LinkedIn Live events feature members of our Scientific Advisory Council as special guests:

- September 18: Stay Cool in the Chaos: Expert Tips for Handling Emergencies
- September 25: Disruption-Proof Your Business: Essential Continuity Planning Tips

The links will be posted on the [Training Services LinkedIn page](#), so bookmark the page to stay tuned for these events.