

Lifesaving Awards



American Red Cross
Training Services

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Inspiring Stories by Region

Quick Thinking Bystander Responds to Horrifying ATV Crash in the South Carolina Region

The Red Cross awarded Teresa Collins with the prestigious Certificate of Merit for her extraordinary actions in January 2024. Teresa, who is a lifeguard, witnessed a catastrophic collision that sent an ATV tumbling, ejecting its two passengers and pinning one beneath its weight. Teresa administered lifesaving first aid for more than 15 minutes while waiting for first responders to arrive. Her quick thinking and smart actions were instrumental in saving a life that day. Hear what Jamie Raichel, Executive Director for the Upstate Chapter of the American Red Cross of South Carolina said about the award on the chapter's [Facebook page](#). Don't miss the [news video](#) for a recap of the remarkable rescue.



Teresa Collins displays her Lifesaving Award.

Brave Lifeguards in Action in the Greater Pennsylvania Region

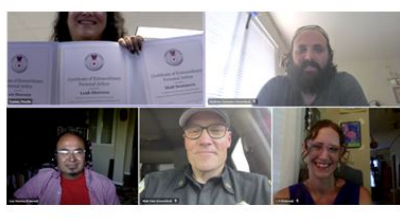
In July 2023, vigilant lifeguard Olivia Schzure, working at the Cranberry Community Waterpark in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, noticed something that alarmed her. As she blew her whistle for a safety break, her eyes caught sight of a young boy who failed to exit the water. Instead, he looked up in confusion before slipping beneath the surface. Olivia immediately activated the emergency action plan, jumped in the water and swam to the child. She successfully put him on her rescue tube before he lost consciousness. In a coordinated effort, the other lifeguards, Paige Welch, Garrett Shreve and Greta Schmidt, helped bring the boy to the edge of the pool where he regained consciousness and was assisted by EMS crews. These heroes were rightfully honored with the Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders. Discover more about the dramatic rescue on the region's [Facebook page](#).



The quartet of LAPR awardees, along with their instructor, pose with members of the Red Cross Greater Pennsylvania region.

Recognizing a Deep Water Rescue in the Cascades Region

Matt Sommers, Luis Herrera and Leah Herrera were snorkeling in the Molalla River in Canby, Oregon when their peaceful day was shattered by desperate cries for help. Matt sprang into action with lightning speed, immediately pulling two people from the water. The danger was far from over. Matt then plunged into a deep hole in the river, where a man was trapped beneath the water, unresponsive and blue in the face. Matt brought the man to the surface, where Luis, a registered nurse, joined the lifesaving effort. Together, they began administering CPR while Leah urgently called 9-1-1. When the man showed signs of life, it was a testament to the critical role of prepared bystanders. For their lifesaving actions, the trio was honored with the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action. Find out more about their heroic deeds on the region's [blog](#).



Matt Sommers, Luis Herrera and Leah Herrera participate in a virtual awards ceremony with the Red Cross Cascades Region.

Instructor Spotlight

David Hutner

Each month we highlight an Instructor whose student(s) have used their lifesaving training to save or sustain a life. This month we recognize David Hutner, whose students Olivia Schzure, Garrett Shreve, Paige Welch and Greta Schmidt are featured in the Greater Pennsylvania Region story above. David taught Lifeguarding with CPR for Professional Rescuers and First Aid to all four of these honorees. We extend our thanks to David for providing the quality training that allowed his students to save a life.



Lifesaving Awards Vault

From the vault of the Reporter Dispatch (White Plains, NY), December 21, 1976

4 Westchester Parkway police win Red Cross lifesaving award

On this date in history, storms swept across Westchester, New York, leading Westchester County Parkway police officers to exhibit acts of courage. Patrolman Ralph Maresco, Patrolman George Graham and Lt. Richard Crawford rescued four occupants of a half-submerged car trapped in four feet of water on the Hutchinson River Parkway. They waded through the water and got the trapped victims out just before they would have been swept into the swollen Hutchinson River. Separately, Patrolman Robert Duncan spent more than an hour in a rushing river to save two firemen also attempting a water rescue. For their actions, the Red Cross awarded all four officers with Certificates of Merit.



Nominate.

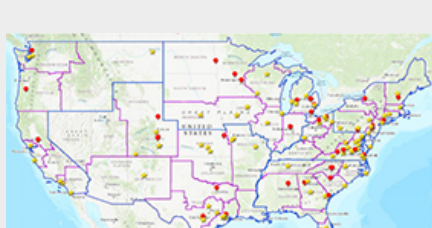
Recognize.

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!

Did you know that 70% of cardiac arrests happen at home? When your loved ones or community need you most, be ready to act with confidence. Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED training provides trusted, science-based skills to help you respond effectively. More than 5 million people are trained in Red Cross lifesaving programs every year. Taking a course has so many benefits. Visit us at [redcross.org/takeaclass](#) to learn more and start your lifesaving journey today.