

**American Red Cross of NWGA**

122 John Maddox Dr.  
Rome, GA 30165

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On the web at:

[NWGRedCross.org](http://NWGRedCross.org)

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On the phone at:

Rome, Georgia  
706 291-6648

Cartersville, GA  
770 382-0981

Calhoun, Ga.  
706 629-4510

Dalton, Ga.  
706 278-5144

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**Mike King**  
Board Chairman

**Jeffrey D Putnam**  
Executive Director

**Sharman Turner**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Office Administrator

**Sarah Egan**  
Emergency Services  
Program Manager

## From Our Director



We finally made it to 2012. Last year was a very busy year for the chapter and its volunteers. Our disaster calls for 2011, show we were down in two areas ...

--8 **Multi-family Fires** (5 less than 2010)

--10 **Storms** – high winds, flooding, mudslides, etc... (1 less than 2010)

We were higher in ...

--197 **Single Family Home Fires** (72 more than 2010)

--**Tornadoes** (none in 2010) struck:

- April 5th in Floyd County
- April 27th in Bartow, Catoosa, Dade, Floyd, Polk and Walker Counties
- Dec 22nd in Floyd and Gordon Counties

The amount distributed to disaster victims was **\$141,454 in 2011**. That is almost double the \$77,113 of the previous year. Our ability to do this is a direct result of great support from our local community.

In April, we experienced the worst tornadoes in our chapter's response history. We provided over 70,000 meals and snacks, sheltered over 200 people, and provided mental health counseling and medical referrals to over 100 people that were affected by these tornadoes.

Support from our community included individuals as well as charitable organizations and local businesses. United Way, Shaw, CSX Transportation, Mohawk, and AT&T are but a sample of those who responded financially. Local individuals and families made donations from \$1 to \$10,000.

Scout troops, school groups, and service personnel found ways to raise money to support this effort. I cannot thank you enough for this support of our local Red Cross.

And none of our efforts would have been possible without our great volunteers who work long hours, day after day, and even through Christmas holidays to provide services for those in need. They provide assistance throughout our 10 county area and give that personal touch that the Red Cross is known for.

To everyone who has gotten up at 2 a.m. to answer a fire call, has spent long days handing out meals in tornado stricken areas, has answered phones or listened to and responded to the tragic stories around us, or done the hundreds of things that are never seen by the community – I thank you.

**DONOR SPOTLIGHT:** *Karla and Lyle Helm are supporters of the Northwest Georgia Red Cross from Calhoun, Ga. Their interest began when a Florida hurricane hit near them some years ago and became even more involved after the Japanese earthquakes and the North GA tornadoes of last year. Karla says giving to the Red Cross is easy to do with a credit card and the internet. Her philosophy: "If we don't keep the Red Cross and other organizations like it trained and well stocked at all times, they will not have the ability to respond when people are in sudden need."*

Do you know there are 3 ways to give to the Red Cross? Mail, Phone, or Online  
For details, see [www.Redcross.org](http://www.Redcross.org)

## Meet our Members:



Ronnie Born works and lives way up north in the Walker/Catoosa County area where he has been working with Red Cross for more than 7 years.

After retirement from the Post Office, he worked DAT calls but had to give it up when he returned to work for a few years.

Now, in retirement again, he has been active in shelter work.

He worked shelters during

the 2007 floods in Walker County. During the Spring tornadoes of 2011, he opened a shelter for a brief time in Walker County and then moved to Ft. Oglethorpe to help in that shelter. This year brought other shelter work in the Rossville/Ft. Oglethorpe area.

Ronnie's wife Ann talked him into Red Cross work and helped for several years until her job

requirements put her into inactive status.

### WHY THE RED CROSS?

*Ronnie says the best part of Red Cross is that it is "community based". It is supported by the community, helps the community, and is done by the community. The best part is meeting such wonderful people ... "Just good people". And, he adds: "We need more volunteers".*



## Heroes for the American Red Cross:

**Heroes for the American Red Cross** is a national campaign taking place March 1-31. Our "heroes" take on the project of raising \$1000 in funding for our local Red Cross Chapter.

This year's campaign in Northwest Georgia will be chaired by Board Members **Jason Espy, Carol Nance** and **Craig Millsap**. They will be recruiting "heroes" in Gordon, Floyd, Bartow, Polk and Chattooga County.

How can you help?

If you are called upon to become a "hero" for the American Red Cross, you can say "yes". Your commitment will be to contact businesses, civic groups, schools, youth groups and individuals in your community seeking donations for the Red Cross of Northwest Georgia. The goal is \$1000 in donations but

whatever you accomplish is success. Every \$1 means better service for the needs of our neighbors.

If you are called by one of our "heroes" to contribute, remember that donations are tax deductible and are used for the work of assisting in local disasters. Our most frequent disasters calls are for house fires, but the

Red Cross responds to any need request from local authorities.

Though we receive state and federal assistance during major disasters the bulk of our work is done every day in northwest Georgia and is funded by you who live here.

Join us ... be a hero  
... help a hero.

**DAT Stats:** Our Disaster Action Teams responds to calls throughout our 10 county area. Recent statistics indicate:  
**Nov/Dec 2012:** 66 Cases / 205 Clients assisted \$ 29,004 in direct financial assistance.  
**2011 – Full Year:** 281 Cases / 980 clients assisted \$141,545 in direct financial assistance  
\*These figures do not include Spring Tornadoes which were classified as a national disaster.

### Happenings:

Monthly: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
Late Jan. – early Feb.  
Blood Drives

Floyd DAT Meeting in Rome, Ga.  
Bartow DAT Meeting in Cartersville, Ga.  
Disaster Training Institute, Atlanta, Ga.  
Go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and search your zip code for schedule in your area