

Lifesaving Awards



American Red Cross
Training Services

NOMINATE NOW

Inspiring Stories by Region

A Story of Courage in the Massachusetts Region

On a fateful July day at Cochituate Lake in Massachusetts, a young woman was pulled lifeless from the water. Alarm spread among beachgoers, and they raced to the park's boathouse in search of assistance. Maddie Olstein and Cole Murphy, who worked at the boathouse, rushed to the scene. Upon arrival, they found bystanders already attempting CPR. Following his training in Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED, Cole immediately assessed the situation and provided guidance on performing more effective CPR. While he helped with CPR, Maddie, trained in Red Cross Lifeguarding with CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer with First Aid and Waterfront Skills, worked to maintain the woman's airway. The efforts proved successful: the woman soon began to cough up water. Maddie and Cole stayed on the scene, continuing to provide care, until professional responders arrived. Their heroic efforts didn't go unnoticed: the Red Cross of Massachusetts honored them with the Certificate of Merit. Read the remarkable story [here](#) to learn how quick, decisive action helped save a life.



Maddie Olstein and Cole Murphy (center) flanked by Red Cross staff during the Certificate of Merit ceremony.

Police Chief's Quick Response to a Bleeding Emergency in the Indiana Region

Last October, Chief Colten Edgington of the Jonesboro Police Department swiftly responded to an emergency call about a severe arm injury. Upon arrival, he discovered a man with a significant arterial laceration on his upper forearm. Acting without delay, Chief Edgington expertly applied a tourniquet, successfully halting the bleeding. Upon the man's arrival at the hospital, the staff commended Chief Edgington for his lifesaving actions. Medical experts confirmed that without Chief Edgington's timely response, the man likely would not have survived. The region's [Facebook page](#) details this important save and has pictures from the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action ceremony.



L to R: Dennis Holp (Board Chair, Northeast Chapter of the Indiana Region Red Cross); Jennifer Sexton (Executive Director, Northeast Chapter of the Indiana Region Red Cross); Chief Colten Edgington (award recipient); the person whose life Chief Edgington saved; Terry Stigdon (CEO, Indiana Region Red Cross)

Teen's Pool Rescue Saves Drowning Child in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Region

Seventeen-year-old lifeguard Neil Johnson had been on the job for just over a month when his Red Cross training (Lifeguarding with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid) was put to the test. A 12-year-old boy slipped underwater in the deep end of a pool at an apartment complex in Philadelphia. Neil, still wearing his glasses and Crocs, jumped in, safely removed the boy from the water and performed CPR. The boy soon coughed up water and began to breathe. EMS transported him to the hospital, where he recovered. Neil's quick heroics earned him the Lifesaving Award for Professional Responders. Read more about this impressive rescue [here](#) and on the region's [Facebook page](#).



L to R: Red Cross Northeast Division Vice President Kobe Langley and Neil Johnson

Instructor Spotlight

Meranda Martin

Each month we highlight an Instructor whose student(s) have used their lifesaving training to save or sustain a life. This month we recognize Meranda Martin, whose students, Caprie McNeill and Brailee Eyre, helped save the life of a friend's father. After finding the father unresponsive, Caprie and Brailee, both trained in Red Cross Lifeguarding with CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and First Aid, immediately began CPR. After about 7 minutes, the first EMT arrived, and by the time the ambulance left for the hospital, the man had a pulse and was breathing on his own. In fact, just a week prior, Caprie and Brailee had completed a CPR refresher course with Meranda, who later expressed immense pride in their lifesaving actions. We extend our thanks to Meranda for providing the quality training that allowed her students to save a life. In addition to the region's [Facebook page](#), the local TV news aired a powerful story that you can watch [here](#).



Lifesaving Awards Vault

From the vault of the Baltimore Sun (Baltimore, MD), May 22, 1940

Former Police Sergeant Who Kept Two From Burning Retired Three Years Ago

We go far back in the vault to 1918, when Sergeant Joseph Hodges of the Baltimore Police Department saved a small child and her aunt from being burned to death by stripping off his raincoat and smothering the flames. For his brave actions, Sergeant Hodges received the Lifesaving 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!

During National Heart Month this February, the American Red Cross is urging everyone to learn CPR and how to use an AED.

- A recent study conducted by the Red Cross concluded that 43% of U.S. adults are interested in taking or have recently completed a first aid, CPR, or AED course as a personal choice, equating to roughly 100 million adults.
- Of those interested, 73% identified their primary motivation to be a desire to be prepared and keep their families safe, with 46% identifying a desire to ensure community safety as motivation.

It is vital for individuals to undergo lifesaving training to be ready for emergencies, so we encourage everyone to sign up for one of our online or in-person classes to meet your training needs.