

PROCLAMATION

American Red Cross Month, 2008

Each year during the month of March we formally recognize the Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross and its essential humanitarian role in Payson. We honor the role of the Red Cross's contribution to making Payson a better place. Every day, Red Cross volunteers and employees carry out the mission by providing essential services to people in their communities with the help of generous donors in Payson.

For more than 92 years, people living in Payson have relied on the expertise of the American Red Cross in disaster relief. Each year, the Grand Canyon Chapter responds to estimated 650 disasters including house or apartment fires, floods, and other natural and human caused disasters. Last year, local Red Cross volunteers responded to 21 disasters in Gila County. In 2007, the Red Cross helped the citizens of southern California by providing more than 30,000 overnight stays in shelters and more than 360,000 meals during the devastating wildfires that wreaked havoc on their community. Dozens of volunteers from the Grand Canyon Chapter helped in that effort.

The Grand Canyon Chapter makes every effort to save lives long before tragedy strikes by helping individuals and entire communities learn to prepare for disasters. It prepares people to save lives through first aid and CPR training, water safety, and use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to save victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Over the past year, more than 29,000 people were trained in life-saving classes and another 40,000 were trained in water safety.

Under its charter, the American Red Cross is entrusted with providing volunteer aid in time of war to the sick and wounded of the armed forces. Staff members deploy with our Armed Forces to provide emergency communications and a caring presence to service men and women separated from their families. In the last year, the Grand Canyon Chapter sent more than 2,110 emergency messages to active duty personnel and their families. The Grand Canyon Chapter also reaches out to the members of the National Guard and Reserves and their families who reside in nearly every neighborhood in Payson.

Without the help of the Grand Canyon Chapter volunteers, who constitute 95-percent of the total work force, the Red Cross would not be able to fulfill the humanitarian mission that is the cornerstone of the organization. We are grateful for the tireless work of the volunteers of the Grand Canyon Chapter in Payson and during this month, we pay tribute to this remarkable organization and all those who have answered the call to serve a cause greater than self and offered support and healing in times of need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Bob Edwards, Mayor of Payson, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Payson do hereby proclaim **March 2008 as American Red Cross Month**. Especially during this extraordinary time for our country, I encourage all Americans to support this organization's noble humanitarian mission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of March, 2008.

ATTEST:

Bob Edwards, Mayor

Silvia Smith, Town Clerk

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