



Fort Carson-MEDDAC News

Celebrating the American Red Cross

By Kalyn Morse, Red Cross Public Relations Volunteer

More than half a million people volunteer at the American Red Cross every year and they serve in many ways. On Fort Carson, volunteers are continuing the tradition of assisting the military community at Evans Army Community Hospital.

By working with patients, providing administrative support, working at various clinics, and providing special events services, this group of people plays an essential role in the Red Cross' mission to provide humanitarian assistance in times of need.

A volunteer at Evans Army Community Hospital says the experience is much more than just donating time and services. Steve Yarnell found his volunteering benefited him personally. The active duty soldier has served as a patient transport volunteer since November 2011.

Interested in a career in nursing, Yarnell chose volunteering as a way to gain experience beside experts in the medical field and begin interacting with patients. This volunteer experience helped him prepare for nursing school by giving him valuable hours on the hospital floor. He was also able to get letters of recommendation from the professionals he volunteers beside.

More importantly, Yarnell tells people, before he became a volunteer, he was worried he would never be able to help the community because of pain. During a 2007 deployment to Iraq, he injured his back. However, since volunteering, he says his pain has subsided and he's realized that helping people is his true calling.

As the nation recognizes Red Cross Month in March, it's the perfect time for you to get involved. There's many ways to celebrate this 131-year-old organization!

Sign up to participate in the free American Red Cross 5K fun run/walk at the Fort Carson Special Events Center on March 10th. It starts at 8 a.m. Pre-registration is encouraged and can be done at any installation gym or Red Cross office. Same day registration is available from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.

In addition, be sure to visit the Red Cross at the PX on March 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to gain valuable information on all of the services we have to offer and meet our pet therapy dogs!

Finally, throughout the month, we will be distributing donated afghan blankets to inpatients at Evans Army Community Hospital.

Visit our offices to find out ways in which you can help!