

The American Red Cross Recognizes Volunteers and Blood Donors

The American Red Cross Serving Muskegon, Oceana, and Newaygo Counties held its annual Volunteer and Blood Donor Recognition on May 12, 2010 in Muskegon. Several area residents were honored for their services to the American Red Cross and the community.

“Each year thousands of volunteers and blood donors serve our communities through the American Red Cross. We are proud of the Red Cross’ unparalleled record of helping people and meeting local needs,” said **TIM LIPAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**. “ All of the services are possible because of volunteers, blood donors, and contributions from the community.”

The organization presented **MARY BOYD of NORTON SHORES with their highest award for leadership, the Reese Award for Extraordinary Service and Leadership**. Boyd serves on a variety of Red Cross committees, and her work included development of a sustainable funding program that seeks out donors who pledge larger donations over a period of several years. As a volunteer for the Red Cross since 2000, Boyd used her leadership positions to institute reforms in the local chapter. Boyd is vice president of regional network and system development for Trinity Health West Michigan.

EZRA TICE of LAKETON TOWNSHIP was presented the highest award to a direct service volunteer within the organization, the Volunteer of the Year Award. Tice was honored outstanding service transporting senior citizens to medical appointments and for driving patients to dialysis. Typically, he begins his volunteer work at 5 a.m. to assure dialysis patients arrive at their life saving appointments on time. Tice also drives blood products to hospitals. Tice has been volunteering for the past three years and is retired from Varney Auto.

The Transportation Services Award was presented to LES IVERY of MUSKEGON. For the past eight years, Mr. Ivery has weekly driven dialysis patients to their 6 a.m. appointments. He also transports area seniors to medical appointments for the Red Cross Senior Transportation program.

The Young Adult Award was given to ERICA ENGEL of NORTON SHORES. Engel has been volunteering 20-30 hours a week in the Emergency Services department. Ms. Engel was also at the forefront of the Red Cross’ response to

the Pandemic flu pandemic and helped organize a massive public education program to the community.

MARY ELLEN LAYTON OF NEW ERA received the **Community Services Award** for her volunteer work at a night caseworker and for her work relaying urgent messages to service members from their families following the death or serious illness of a family member. Layton has been volunteering for the past three years.

The Disaster Services Award was presented to JUDY GOULD of MUSKEGON for her lead role in staffing over 100 volunteers to national disasters around the country and for managing volunteers who staff the local emergency services department. Gould is also a caseworker and responds to local house fires.

BILL STRASSER of WHITEHALL received the **Blood Services Award** for his involvement with the blood program. Strasser drives blood products to Lansing for testing and processing and to over 14 hospitals from South Haven to Big Rapids. Strasser also does blood runs in event of emergencies and volunteers to help raise funds for the Red Cross.

NORM MUNCIE of RAVENNA was awarded the **Health and Safety Services Award** for his administrative work in the department. Muncie is responsible for entering course information and maintaining a database for the department.

Recognized for 25 years of service to the organization were **ROSE NEAR of NEW ERA** and **JOYCE WOODBURY of HART**. **HELEN FOSTER of HART** was recognized for 30 years of service. All three women have been active volunteers with Oceana County blood drives.

Several top gallon blood donors were also recognized at the event for reaching gallon milestones in this past calendar year.

MUSKEGON residents **ROBERT KING** and **DARRYL ROSE** reached the 25-gallon level.

NORTON SHORES resident **DOUGLAS YOUNG** reached the 31-gallon level.

The following awards given to sponsor groups for holding outstanding blood drives during 2008. All were honored for their consistent and successful collection of blood products.

The **Sponsor Award for Community Group** was presented to **COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of NORTH MUSKEGON**. In 2009, the church collected 243 units of blood, helping to supply 729 patients with blood products. Vincent Esser coordinates the drives at the church.

The **Sponsor Award for Schools** was given to **RAVENNA HIGH SCHOOL**. The school holds several drives per year and has exceptional involvement of students and administration. Pat Ripley, student advisor, and the National Honor Society students coordinate those drives.

ALCOA HOWMET was presented the **Sponsor Award for Business**. Through strong leadership and creative thinking, they have continued to grow their donations, their goals and the number of blood drives held at their facility. Drives are held every quarterly at the plant. Debbie Metts coordinates those drives.

The mission of the American Red Cross is to provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to life's emergencies.

The organization is dependent upon volunteer to deliver its services. For more information about volunteering with the American Red Cross, please call 231-726-3555 or visit our website at www.arcmon.org.