



Red Nose Response Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

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Greetings!

This latest issue of the newsletter comes to you shortly upon the heels of the last issue because we have several announcements that are time sensitive.

Please pay special attention to the articles about the need to help out feeding volunteers in Greensburg, Kansas and about the many blood drives going on right now. These articles and the others in this issue demonstrate ways that you, as responders, can make a difference now. It is what you have been asking for.

Thank you again for your support and enthusiasm Sending Smiles To The Rescue.

The Board of Red Nose Response and the editor.

Cookies needed in Greensburg, Kansas

Tornado recovery

This information comes from Rita "Dizzy" Winter, a RNR responder who experienced the devastation of a tornado in her home town of Greensburg, KS. Her parents' home was reduced to pieces of wood. Close to the entire town was destroyed. Rita shares this appeal from David Yohn from Greensburg who is in charge of feeding the volunteers who have come into town to help with the clean-up and rebuilding.



The Presidents' Corner

Some thoughts I'd like to share with you

From the Pres of RNR:

Teresa and I gave a "Comic Relief - Sending Smiles to the Rescue" lecture at the Circus Magic Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia last month. We decided that calling the Red Nose Response lecture, "Disaster Clowning," did not exemplify the art form so we changed the title for a more appropriate definition. Red Nose Responders have many opportunities to spread comic relief to those affected by disastrous situations. Volunteering for and with your local Disaster Action Team (DAT) can give responders an edge in performing in and out of shelters. Taking appropriate classes

He says, "Starting March 12, we have volunteer numbers growing up to 250 until the end of the month... Since I have to feed them, we can't do it at the Tornado Recovery. We need locals, and previous locals, to help take care of the volunteers. Often we don't know how to give back, but this is how." The South Central Kansas Tornado Recovery Organization ends on **March 31**.

Here is something that all responders can do to help with the recovery efforts in Greensburg. Teresa Gretton thought cookies could be a big hit, if a big red nose could be put in the middle with white dots for eyes and a smile. What a great idea. I'm sure there are chefs out there just waiting to help!

If you can bake a dozen cookies or dozens of cookies be sure to pack them in a plastic or tin container and then pack that in a cardboard box with cushioning. Since these will be coming from you, the RNR responders, label these cookies with a note about RNR and as a further suggestion, include our web site, www.rednoseresponse.org so that people can learn about us.

The address you can mail cookies to: SCKTRO 615 West Illinois, Greensburg, Kansas 67054

RNR Survival Kit

Look for yours at the next convention you attend

We will introduce these at the upcoming COAI convention in Clarksville, IN beginning April 21, 2009. They will be part of the convention goodie bags.



If you are a Red Nose coordinator for your state, you might consider putting together some of these items for your **"state kit"**. Basically, it's a Ziploc sandwich bag with a label that says, "Red Nose Responder Survival Kit" under the logo and might contain the following items, labeled with the words in parentheses:

- A Jolly Rancher (to keep your sense of humor)
- A crayon (red, of course, to make your life colorful)
- A paper clip (for holding it all together)
- An eraser (to change for the better and remove the mistakes you made today)
- A pink fuzzy cotton ball (to share your love)
- A band aid (to heal the hurt feelings)
- A rubber band (to stay flexible)
- A heart/nose (to show the heart of a clown)
- A penny (to remind you to share your resources)

prepares you as a volunteer first and then as a responder ready to perform in the necessary manner. Responders can host a Welcome Home Luncheon for volunteers returning from deployment or offer to perform at special receptions for those who have assisted during disasters. Fundraising is keynote to any relief organization. Responders can tremendously help by organizing fund raising opportunities-big or small. If you belong to an alley, ask for their help with these endeavors.

Some responders that I have had the privilege to meet have indicated a reluctance to organize such events citing they are not experienced enough or have never taken on fundraising opportunities. I would like to share with you how simple it is. My lovely cohort (Blondi) and I presented our magical fun show for purposes of fund-raising for our local chapter of the Red Cross. We planned an hour show. We asked for the backing of the Red Cross in promoting the opportunity. We also found a little theatre (black box) in which we were able to negotiate part proceeds for its use. We are delighted to say that we sold out the house and had SRO. Everyone appeared to have fun and both the Red Cross and the Black Box benefitted. This type of show may be too much for you to start but if you have experience in performance shows can be produced at a small cost and it is what we clowns live for-to entertain and see the smiles and hear the giggles. Other forms of fundraising can be balloon art, face painting, bake sales with a clown theme, etc.

An excerpt from a new lecture was also introduced at the Circus Magic convention. Anyone can present it. The title is "Don't Clown Around with Disaster Preparedness." Following a Red Cross manual on how to build a Disaster Kit, two or more responders can educate and entertain. One responder can be the "straight man" explaining the serious side of preparing for a disaster and the other can play the clown bringing light to a serious situation. By using visuals (large and comedic) this presentation allows a young audience to gain insight by remembering the props used to emphasize the different steps in building a disaster kit. We will go over this presentation in upcoming issues of the e-zine so that you can bring much needed awareness to the community at large. It can be done for school groups, civic organizations, and churches. So, stay tuned.

Bob "Bunky" Gretton Clowns of America International Clown of the Year, 2009

RNR Advisory Board

President Bob Gretton appoints new members

The Board of Directors of Red Nose Response has identified the need to



- A stick of gum (to relieve stress)
- A toothpick (to hold open your eyes when you just can't stay up one more minute to do those balloons)
- A birthday candle (when you think you are in the dark)
- A safety pin (to remind you that safety is first)
- A block (to remind you that you might stumble, but you won't fall)
- A marble (to help you keep rolling)
- A small mirror (to remind you that your actions reflect on you.)

Penny Harvest

Benefits go to Red Nose Response for a second time

Matthew "Phineas" Lish of Queens, NY encouraged his elementary school to donate their Penny Harvest to Red Nose Response two years ago. Now a middle schooler, Matt has again championed RNR and reports that approximately \$250 will be donated to Red Nose Response.



You might remember that we told you about Matt last month with his fund raising activity making juggling balls with the proceeds going to RNR as his chosen charity for his Bar Mitzvah. He's a one-man fundraiser and we truly appreciate what he has done.

What an inspiration to all of us. Hats off to Phineas!

Wear RNR where you go out

Help spread the message



You too can be seen wearing one or more of these articles of clothing with the RNR logo on them.

All you need to do is go to our store at Cafe Press, find you favorite, place an order and it will come to your home in the mail.

[RNR store](#)

Introducing the Newest Member of the Board of Directors

Meet Marion "MLE" Lovig



Marion has been a responder for RNR since 2006 and is the state coordinator for Connecticut. She has been actively involved in

have some very special people serve in an advisory capacity based upon their unique experiences or backgrounds. Advisors are asked to serve for a one-year-term. They will be also be asked to be available by email or conference call when their strengths and knowledge can aid in developing more ways to bring Smiles To The Rescue in order to build a strong lasting organization.

The advisory board was announced in the Feb issue of the e-zine with the first two members being **Teresa "Blinky" Gretton** and **Paul "FuddiDuddy" Kleinberger**. These two have been supporters and advisors since the inception of our organization. Paul was one of the founding members.

The most recent additions are also people who have been there on our behalf from Day One. **Keith "Toby" Stokes** (also a founding member) was on the ground floor as we first organized and offered sage advice from his years of clowning, educating and running a foundation.

Mike Zabko, CEO of the Southern Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross, has guided us in becoming recognized by the American Red Cross by creating the Statement of Understanding (SOU) and providing valuable insight into what it takes to work with national relief organizations.

We are infinitely grateful to these people who are willing to be there, on call, and to advise.

[Advisory Board](#)

National Blood Drive Month

This is another way that Red Nose Response responders can help to Give Life and Save a Life. During the month of March we are encouraging our responders to find a local blood drive and participate. Some may be able to donate blood, as one responder did while sporting her red nose and her RNR shirt. That's Marion "MLE" (pronounced EmLy) Lovig of Connecticut.



Whether you give blood or not, you can also volunteer to entertain the children who come with their parents by telling stories, clowning around and making balloons. The staff of the blood drives will find that a smile and a giggle makes their day go faster. Most of those people are volunteers.

To find out where the next blood drive is being

communicating with her responders, spreading the word about RNR at regional conventions and completing her Red Cross training as a DAT volunteer.

MLE (just say the letters and you are saying her clown name) has been clowning for about 11 years. She was drawn into the art when a notice of a clown workshop was posted at her church. She attended and, as she says, she was "hooked". Currently she is a Christian clown, clowning with her sister Janice (also a RNR responder) as the Kingdom Klowns.

MLE is married to a clown supporter, Tom Lovig, and they live in Branford, CT. As a Board member she hopes to re-invigorate communications with the state coordinators, shining the light on ways they can discover to be responders and bringing their interests and concerns to the Board. She has big clown shoes to fill following the lead of former Board member, Elaine Vercellone, and we welcome her.

held you can call your local Red Cross chapter, go to www.givelife.org or call 1 800-GIVELIFE (1 800 448- 3543). Let them know that Red Nose Response is there to support them.

Coming Up

What to look forward to

We continue to grow, both in the size of our organization and our communication with you. We hope you will make copies of the e-zine and share them with your alleys, your friends and with the local relief organizations.

Here are some things we have coming up. It was suggested that the Red Cross and other relief groups often have "comfort kits" that they distribute to the adults. What is lacking is age appropriate comfort kits for the children. We will share with you some ideas for assembling these and giving them out locally. It would be a wonderful alley project.

We are also developing a Red Nose Response YouTube channel. This will be another means to communicate between the e-zines and between all the responders. Stay tuned for more on that.

Finally, we hope to have updated photos from Greensburg and other events where RNR has been active. Please send any photos and stories to info@rednoseresponse.org. Your success is an inspiration to others.

We want to hear from all of you, sharing your interests, your activities and your questions. Tell us when you spot a need. You are our eyes and ears. Email Arla Albers, our editor, with your articles and pictures at gogoclown@cox.net.

Bob

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