

STATE OF OHIO  
**Executive Department**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

**OHIO RED CROSS MONTH  
MARCH 2009**

For more than a century, the American Red Cross has been at the forefront of helping Americans prevent, prepare for and respond to large and small disasters. Families and communities depend on the Red Cross in times of need; yet the Red Cross depends on the support of the American people to help sustain the foundation.

Each year during the month of March we formally recognize the American Red Cross and its essential humanitarian role in our community. We honor the role of the Red Cross's contribution to making Ohio a better place. This year we focus on the spirit of the volunteers, donors, partners and employees who support the Red Cross mission of humanitarianism.

For decades, the Red Cross in Ohio has relied on the everyday heroes who donate time, blood or money. It has been the place where compassionate people freely give their time and talent to help prevent and ease human suffering among friends, neighbors and even strangers.

For the next century and beyond, the Red Cross will meet the needs of the public by fostering volunteers who are professional, prepared and committed to continuing the tradition of providing supreme service delivery to our community.

The month-long commemoration was created in the 1940s when the Red Cross started a "Roll Call" drive to increase public support during wartime. After discussions with President Franklin Roosevelt, the honorary chairman of the Red Cross, an official call for support was issued, and he declared the whole month of March Red Cross Month.

"I summon the men, women and young people of our country, in every city and town and village, in every county and state throughout the land, to enlist in the army of mercy mobilized under the banner of the Red Cross and to contribute generously to the Red Cross....." Roosevelt said.

In the spirit of these words of Franklin Roosevelt, EVERY MONTH is Red Cross Month.

**FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, I, TED STRICKLAND, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize**

**March 2009 as OHIO RED CROSS MONTH**

and urge all Ohioans during EVERY MONTH, to continue to give your time, blood and money to make a difference in the humanitarian fabric of this community. We help each other when we help the Red Cross.

On this 1st day Of March 2009

**Ted Strickland  
Governor**