

Ready When the Time Comes

(RWTC) is an American Red Cross volunteer involvement program that utilizes the valuable human resources of corporate America. The Red Cross trains employees from partnering corporations and mobilizes them as a community-based volunteer force when disaster strikes.



Volunteers who are trained and ready to help in times of disaster are always needed. The Red Cross is offering the RWTC program to companies to engage and train committed teams of employee volunteers who will be ready to respond immediately to a local disaster.



This innovative partnership will save lives and help people in communities affected by disasters, whenever and wherever they occur.

RWTC volunteers are trained in the following areas of service:

- Bulk Distribution
- Call Center
- Casework
- Mass Care and Feeding
- Sheltering



RWTC is a mutually beneficial partnership that—

- Provides a way for companies to be involved in their communities by responding to community needs after a disaster.
- Associates a company's name and brand with the American Red Cross—one of the world's most trusted charitable organizations.
- Allows companies to give back to their communities in a unique and visible way. Employee teams are deployed to provide assistance during times of disaster, whether it's a natural disaster like a fire, flood, blizzard, earthquake, tornado or hurricane, or a human-caused disaster.
- Gives employees an opportunity to volunteer to meet a high-priority local need. Employee volunteer programs are an excellent way to motivate employees, to build leadership and management skills and to encourage teamwork.

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FOR THE ONES WHO GET IT DONE



Ready When the Time Comes was developed in 2001 as a partnership between the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago and W.W. Grainger, Inc. Today, over 850 employee volunteer from 15 Chicago-area companies are trained and “ready when the time comes” to volunteer.

Following the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, Grainger and the Office of the National Chair of Volunteers of the American Red Cross agreed to launch a national RWTC program to model corporate volunteer involvement in disaster response. The goal of the three-year pilot project is to have 16 chapters working in partnership with 100+ corporate partners, with several thousand trained RWTC volunteers in place.

Building on its commitment to the American Red Cross, W.W. Grainger, Inc. proudly serves as the national founding sponsor of the Ready When the Time Comes national pilot program.



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“Disasters affect everyone. Businesses are not immune. Through RWTC, companies and their employees can become active participants in creating solutions for disaster relief. The program enables our employees to make the communities where they live and work a better place while simultaneously feeling good about being able to help.”

—Richard L. Keyser, CEO, W.W. Grainger, Inc.

“The success of the American Red Cross in meeting the expectations of the American public depends on having a sufficient number of trained volunteers. In today’s environment that means close collaboration with corporate volunteer programs. The RWTC program is the primary way we will build these critically important partnerships.”

—Kathryn A. Forbes, National Chair of Volunteers, American Red Cross

“After my own family experienced a disastrous loss and subsequent outpouring of support, it was important for me to find a way to give back. RWTC provided me with the perfect opportunity to help those in need. After 9/11, I assisted with a national call center and helped people trying to locate loved ones...I helped fireproof homes in at-risk communities, which may prevent future tragedies. Being a part of the RWTC program enables me to positively impact my company, my community and my life.

—Patti Rowles, W.W. Grainger, Inc.

“Participating in the Ready When the Time Comes program has been more rewarding than I ever imagined. I have had a range of experiences, from helping victims of a fire...to being a part of a team that visits homes to be sure they are fire-safe, and each experience has been amazing in its own way. For me, it’s not only been a chance to respond to the needs of the community, it has also been a great learning opportunity, and I’ve had fun doing it. As a member of the team, I have seen firsthand what a difference the American Red Cross is making in communities all over the city, and I am proud to wear the American Red Cross badge.”

—Angie Sciortino, Hewitt Associates

