

The American Red Cross of Greater Chicago is gearing up for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual *Heroes Breakfast*, in which we honor local people who are dedicated to creating safer and stronger communities and providing help when disaster strikes.

Candidates must live or work in Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, LaSalle, Lake, McHenry, or Will counties in Illinois. The heroic act must have taken place during the 2021 calendar year or be an act of ongoing service.

**To nominate your hero, please visit [www.redcross.org/hero](http://www.redcross.org/hero).**

Please submit nominations by **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

This year's honorees will receive a Red Cross medal of honor on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at The Hilton Chicago.

Hero nominations will be accepted in the following categories:

**Categories will likely include:**

**Blood Services Hero:**

- The eligible nominee can be an individual(s) or organization that is involved in activity that creates awareness of the importance of blood donation in the community, helps to ensure a sufficient and safe blood supply is available to those in need, and/or acts as an activist for the blood community at large.

**Community Impact Hero:**

- The nominee has displayed leadership and commitment to community by making a positive, noticeable, and significant impact in our community. The nominee has identified a community need and created a program or service or otherwise took action to address that need.

**Disaster Services Hero:**

- The nominee(s) is an individual who has exhibited heroic efforts in any or all of the areas of disaster services, including preparedness, response or recovery during a natural disaster or emergency situation through mission-driven response assistance to people in need. The nominee has exhibited heroism in response to an emergency situation or is involved in an ongoing commitment to a community that experienced a disaster through an act/s of kindness, courage, or unselfishness in response to an identified need.

**Education Hero:**

- The nominee(s) has displayed leadership and commitment to their community by making a positive and significant impact, and through their efforts has exhibited heroic efforts to increase access to education. This nominee(s) could be, but not limited to, a practicing teacher, school administrator, day care provider or student organization.

**Essential Services Hero:**

- This nominee(s) has served in an essential services role or ensured access to essential services. Some examples could include, but are not limited to: public transportation operators, food services employees, postal and shipping services or critical trades such as plumbing, electricians, janitorial staff. For a full listing of qualified essential services, please visit [here](#)

#### **Firefighter Hero:**

- The nominee(s) is a professional, reserve or volunteer firefighter, or medical personnel related to the dispatch operations of a fire department. The nominee could have been on- or off-duty at the time of the incident. The nominee either exhibited heroism in their response to an emergency situation or the nominee is involved in an ongoing commitment to the community through an act/s of kindness, courage, or unselfishness in response to an identified need.

#### **Global Citizenship Hero:**

- The nominee(s) has volunteered or worked to address the needs of the world's vulnerable and unjustly treated populations by building safer, more resilient communities and providing needed relief. The eligible nominee must be from the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago area, but may have conducted their service locally, nationally and/or internationally to assist the individuals in need.

#### **Healthcare Hero**

- The nominee(s) is a licensed and practicing medical professional, medical student or retired medical professional. The nominee could have been on- or off-duty at the time of the incident. The nominee either exhibited heroism in their response to an emergency situation, ongoing medical need or ongoing commitment to the community through an act/s of kindness, courage, or unselfishness in response to an identified need.

#### **Law Enforcement Hero:**

- The nominee(s) is a professional police officer or related law enforcement official. The nominee could have been on- or off-duty at the time of the incident. The nominee either exhibited heroism in their response to an emergency situation or the nominee is involved in an ongoing situation in which a commitment is made to the community through an act/s of kindness, courage, or unselfishness in response to an identified need.

#### **Lifesaving Rescue Hero:**

- The nominee(s) has performed an act of heroism involving an unusual, significant or unexpected incident requiring a courageous or unselfish reaction in a time of need that ultimately was resolved in the saving of another person's life.

#### **Military Hero:**

- The nominee(s) is a U.S. service member (active, reserve, and guard), veteran, or military supporter. The eligible nominee(s) could have been on- or off-duty at the time of the heroic event. The nominee either exhibited heroism in their

response to an emergency situation or the nominee is involved in an ongoing commitment to the community through an act/s of kindness, courage, or unselfishness in response to an identified need.

**Social Justice Impact Hero:**

- The nominee(s) has displayed leadership and commitment to their/our community by recognizing a need, making a positive and significant impact through their efforts to propel social change. The nominee values human rights and the dignity of all.

**Youth Hero:**

- The nominee(s) must be 17 years old or under at the time of the incident or act. The eligible nominee(s) has performed an act of heroism involving an unusual, significant or unexpected incident requiring a courageous or unselfish reaction in a crisis or time of need. The nominee(s) can be involved in an ongoing commitment to the community through an act/s of kindness, courage, or unselfishness in response to an identified need.