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Report Received From American Red Cross Concerning Red Cross Activities in South Carolina

Strom Thurmond

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COPY OF REPORT RECEIVED BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FROM SOUTHEASTERN AREA OFFICE, AMERICAN RED CROSS, ON ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

RED CROSS SERVICES IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Public support of the 1949 annual fund campaign of the American Red Cross, now underway in the organization's 58 chapters in South Carolina, will make possible a continuation of six major missions of these chapters in the field of public service and humanitarian endeavor.

South Carolina's Red Cross chapters have the responsibility for (1) aiding victims of disaster, (2) serving men of the armed forces and their dependents, (3) helping veterans and their dependents, (4) promoting health and safety education, (5) development of humanitarian activities by young people, and (6) helping around the world.

Aiding Victims of Disaster

When disaster struck in 5 South Carolina counties during 1948, Red Cross volunteers gave their time and energy along with other agencies of their communities in meeting emergency and rehabilitation needs of disaster victims. The Red Cross gave emergency aid to 200 persons affected by disasters, and rehabilitation aid to 65 South Carolina families. Total disaster relief expenditure for the year in South Carolina was $18,162.00.

In the entire nation, Red Cross disaster emergency relief and rehabilitation assistance totaling more than $12,000,000.00 was given to 312,000 persons, and chapters handled 65,000 inquiries about the welfare of disaster victims.
Service to the Armed Forces

As another primary mission of service, the Red Cross acts as the connecting link between the man in uniform, and his dependents back home. In the serviceman's home community, his local Red Cross chapter has trained workers who make reports of home conditions, give financial assistance, offer advice and counsel to his family, and other assistance needed. South Carolina chapters handled an average of 1,400 such cases each month last year. These chapters gave financial assistance to both servicemen and veterans totaling $77,584.00.

At the other end of the link, on the military post where the serviceman is stationed, a Red Cross field director acts as liaison between the military and the serviceman's home chapter. In South Carolina last year welfare cases handled by post or station field directors numbered 20,750 and financial loans totaled $57,713.00. In military hospitals, Red Cross representatives acted on 3,900 cases. There were also many South Carolina volunteers who served in those hospitals, providing recreational activities and giving personal service.

Help For Veterans

A similar program of service is set up for veterans and their dependents. Local Red Cross chapters in South Carolina gave assistance in an average of 1,730 cases each month in 1948 involving veterans or dependents. The Red Cross also has field directors assigned to all Veterans Administration offices in the state. They represent the veteran in presenting claims for disabilities, pensions, insurance, and other
government benefits. A total of 21,800 claims, mostly for disability compensation and pension, were presented through Red Cross. Patients in veterans hospitals in South Carolina also were served by Red Cross. More than 700 volunteers in the state gave 5,900 hours of service in these hospitals last year.

Health and Safety Education

Another phase of Red Cross work in South Carolina has been health and safety education through teaching by trained representatives and promotion by local chapters. As an indication of the success of such educational programs, the Red Cross issued the following number of certificates in the state in 1948: First aid, 950; swimming, 23,300; lifesaving, 665; accident prevention, 425; home nursing, 590; and nutrition, 350.

A rapidly growing program in operation for the past year is the Red Cross National Blood Program. This service now includes 22 regional blood centers and blood mobile units, which provide whole blood and derivatives for the sick and injured without charge for the product. At present in the Southeast, regional blood centers are in operation in Atlanta, Charlotte and Nashville.

Working With Young People

Junior Red Cross, the largest youth service group in the world, carries out many community projects involving hospitals, orphanages, and institutions and the provision of assistance to children of other lands. In 1948 there were 199,000 South Carolina school children enrolled and one of their biggest projects was the sending of more than
2,900 gift boxes overseas. Four colleges in the state also have active Red Cross units.

Serving the World

The American Red Cross also assists its sister Red Cross societies in other lands to help themselves. Purchased material valued at $6,000,000.00 was sent to other countries, particularly Palestine and Greece, and was distributed under supervision of representatives from the American Red Cross and the Red Cross societies of those countries. In addition to these purchased relief items, volunteers in ARC chapters sent many garments and other chapter-produced articles overseas. A portion of the 1,030 garments and 18,000 other articles turned out by South Carolina Red Cross volunteers in 1948 found their way overseas. Chapters also produced 103,500 surgical dressings. Volunteers in South Carolina amassed more than 22,700 hours during the year in such services as Production, Arts and Skills, Gray Ladies, Social Welfare Aides, Canteen, Motor Service, and Staff Aides.