

**American Red Cross Month**

By: Heather Dean

March is American Red Cross Month. The purpose is to recognize the humanitarian services and accomplishments of the organization and honor the legions of American Red Cross employees and volunteers whose contributions save and improve the lives of millions of people.

Russ Pearson is the executive director of the Wilkes-Alleghany chapter of the A.R.C. He first started working with the Red Cross in the Naval offices in 1995. He says there are 57 chapters in NC, with blood centers in Winston, Charlotte, Greensboro, Durham, Wilmington, and Asheville. In the Carolinas blood region, 109 hospitals use the blood graciously donated. He said that these 109 hospitals will go through **2500** pints *a day*.

Russ said there are 4 programs used by the A.R.C.:

1. Blood collections like they do here on campus. They try to use local nurses, and two of those, at the last blood drive, were graduates from WCC a few years ago. They average 50 useable units from each drive. They send the blood off to be tested before use, and if there is a problem, they throw it out and send a letter to the donor. So if you know you have something like diabetes, or if you're anemic, then there's no need to donate because its not useable.

2: Disaster- single family fires are the most common disaster in Wilkes county. The Red Cross is there to help with the initial impact. They give out vouchers for food and clothing for the family to use. Sometimes when needed they also give vouchers for glasses, dentures and prescriptions.

3: Health and safety-They teach courses on CPR and first aid.

4: AFES- the Armed Forces Emergency Service- (at this point in the conversation a little pandemonium ensued when a donor passed out and hit the floor) stores blood used for the emergencies encountered in battle.

He made it quite clear that the Red Cross is a non-profit organization and they depend on volunteers. It is not a government agency, it is a United Way agency. He also mentioned that you can give blood every 56 days, so don't be shy!!

**International Mirth Month.** To encourage people to use humor to deal with all the not-so-funny problems of living.

**National Women's History Month.** To celebrate the contributions to U.S. history that women have made.

**THEATRE STUDENTS**  

**PREPARE FOR THE TRIP TO BROADWAY**  
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The Wilkes Community College theatre dept. will once again be traveling to NYC to see the St. Patties day parade, among other things. Final preparations are being made this week as they plan to depart on the 14th from Greensboro. Among the list of things to take in are: "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Chicago" on Broadway. Going to several of the comedy clubs, the Empire State Building, and of course, Lady Liberty herself.

The Theatre department takes two trips a year to New York. One for St. Patrick's Day and another one around Thanksgiving, the highlight being the Macy's Thanksgiving parade. Cost is usually around \$475.00 per person and is on a 4 per room occupancy. If you would like to know more or are interested in going on the next trip, contact David Rey-