It was 151 years ago this year that Henry Dunant witnessed a battle in the Italian village of Solferino—a horrific conflict which left over 38,000 men injured, dying or dead at a time when no form of organized medical assistance was available.

That day in 1859 was a pivotal one for all humanity and conflicts would never again be as they had been in the past. Henry Dunant set up teams of volunteers to provide assistance, a system which ultimately developed into what we know today as the Red Cross. The concept of “humanitarian assistance” was born and has since evolved from a haphazard system in times of war into efficient and structured provision of aid.

Today, the Red Cross has come of age. Borne out of humanitarianism and compassion, we have become the largest humanitarian organization in the world and are committed to the efficient provision of aid. We strive to provide as many as possible with the assistance they require.

The Red Cross is a complex organization involved in a wide range of activities. In all these activities we continually strive to balance fulfillment of humanitarian goals with the manner in which we seek to achieve those goals and we have endeavored to capture the essence of this two pronged strategy in our slogan: Humanity in Action, “Our World Your Move”.

This unique duality means that our work is not always easy but is most definitely worthwhile and combining efficiency with humanity has proved to be the secret to the enduring success of the Red Cross.

Happy Reading!
Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

"MOBILIZING THE POWER OF HUMANITY"

Remembering Volunteers

Ken De Abreu CCH, began his Volunteer career with Guyana Red Cross in the 1975 when he was involved in Fund Raising activities. He became the Fund Raising Chair until elected as Chairman of the Executive Committee in 1979. He involved his Company Banks DlH in Fund Raising also, and his staff volunteered at Cake Sales and the Tea and Fashion Shows.

He became the second President of the National Society in 1997, a position he held until he resigned in 2003 to take up residence in Florida, USA.

Ken was a champion of Red Cross causes, and joined in all activities: taking the lead in walk-a-thons, and remained committed to all activities.

In recognizing to his sterling contribution to the GRCS, the auditorium was named “The Ken De Abreu Auditorium” a tribute to him as he retired from his RC Volunteer career of over 28 years of continuous Voluntary Service.

Neil Isaccs was a champion in the field of voluntary blood donations, and for many years held the title of the most consistent donor. Only ill health prevented him for continuing as a blood donor. He was very involved in the development of the Blood Bank in Guyana. Mr. Isaccs also was involved in the planning and building process of the new Red Cross Children’s Home in D’Urban Backlands, through his work with the Rotary Club of Georgetown.

Tina Maria Insanally who spent many months at the Children’s Convalescent Home, before being adopted into the loving Insanally family, died very suddenly on the 15th August 2010. After being adopted, Tina frequently visited the Home and always took kind words, smiles of sunshine, and other special gifts to the children. At her funeral, Red Cross volunteers present, a collection was taken in aid of the Children’s Home. The Insanally family have set up the Tina Insanally Foundation, and are working to enhance the environment of the home, and the involvement of other volunteers in the development of the
No overacting. Keep it real!
Simulators feign real-life injuries

First Aid is not something you learn out of a book. Though theory is useful to providing quick and effective aid after an accident, you really need plenty of practical experience, says Mrs. Norma Hamilton, Assistant First Aid Coordinator of the Guyana Red Cross. She says this is why practical exercises are such a big part of the First Aid courses run by the Guyana Red Cross. Realistic exercises help trainees to master first aid techniques at their own pace, with the help of well trained personnel who can act out a wide variety of scenarios in a convincing way.

Scenarios of minor wounds, bloody injuries, and even amputations portrayed by simulators are often impossible to distinguish from real-life equivalents. Simulators can also pretend to be in shock, faint or suffer a heart attack. “It’s not easy. When you act an accident, you have to make sure everything’s correct. So it’s important not to overact,” Mrs. Hamilton explains.

“Simulations bring classes to life and what you practice on a mannequin you don’t forget in a hurry,” explains a student of the September class.

Learn First Aid, Be Certified!
Tel (592) 226-5174 for further information

Did you know?
First Aid is the emergency care given to an ill or injured person using readily available materials before professional help arrives.

Impartiality
It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.
“Child friendly homes, child friendly classrooms, - quality education”

Respected Child Protection Delegate, Guvinder Singh of the Canadian Red Cross visited the GRCS during September. Guvinder provided support to the GRCS on the implementation of the ‘Be Safe’ Programme.

Guvinder along with Richard McCabe, Disaster Manager for the America’s visited the GRCS to work along with Ms. Shauntel Maloney – Be Safe Coordinator (GRCS) to monitor the programme in the Moruca sub-region, Region 1 Area.

Humanity in Action spoke with Guvinder during his visit and asked what were his thoughts on the theme chosen for this year’s education month (September) “Child friendly homes, child friendly classrooms - quality education. “I think it’s a fabulous theme, it fits very well with the ‘Be Safe!’

Rushelle Perry gave birth to a bouncing baby boy in September.
Congratulations to the family and welcome to baby Adrial Anthony Perry.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.
Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.
“Reaching out to the vulnerable”

RC YOUTH - Shawn Trotman

For 18 year old Shawn Trotman, summer wasn't just about hanging with his friends but it was hanging with the elderly folks who are recipients of the ‘Meals on Wheels’ Service.

Shawn spent his summer helping the ladies in the RC kitchen with washing dishes, delivering meals and spending quality time with the seniors.

Humanity in Action asked Shawn how he felt about his summer, he noted that “the elderly sometimes have no one to talk to and they always have good advice for youngsters like myself.”

Shawn is part of the RC Youth Group and has been volunteering with the RC since 2005.

News on Voluntary Blood Donations

The GRCS continues to scale up Voluntary Remunerated Blood Donations through their monthly drives and partnerships with schools and other organizations.

Regular blood drive for September yielded to 39 units, which is a significant increase from previous month.

Congratulations to Mae's Schools who collaborated with GRCS to hold a blood drive in commemoration of their 18th anniversary - they managed to capture a whooping 72 units.

The GRCS wishes to thank all voluntary donors for their contribution to humanity.
GRCS Branch Development News

Region 7, Bartica once again benefitted from First Aid Training held from September 17 to 19. The training was held at the Lions Den, 2nd Avenue Bartica. Twenty-one residents of Bartica and surrounding areas, and four residents from the village of Kuru Tuku participated, resulting in an increased number of persons in Region 7, now certified in Red Cross Standard First Aid.

Eight persons volunteered to form the nucleus of a branch development committee, with many others signing on as volunteers for continued work in the community.

The interim committee will be led by Mrs. Irene Pereira and will be responsible for developing strategies for raising the profile of Red Cross across the region; seeking new opportunities for collaboration; and developing new initiatives that align with the goals of the Red Cross. Mrs. Dorothy Fraser, Secretary General of the GRCS noted that volunteers will also have the opportunity to take full ownership and be responsible for working closely with other regional initiatives including resource development leadership and development of RC youth programs.

Watsan final Stakeholders Meeting

The Water and Sanitation Project in Regions 1 and 9 wrapped up after their 36 months of training and education in safe water usage and good hygiene practices, also construction of rain water harvesting systems, improved wells and VIP Latrines. The project commenced in January of 2008 and was headed by French Red Cross Delegates, Aaron Brent and Jola Miziniak. They closed with the final stakeholder’s meeting held from September 28-30th at the GRCS, Headquarters.

This meeting was attended by key stakeholders such as PAHO, UNICEF, Ministries’ and NGOs.

One GRCS volunteer in region 1 explained - “People used the brushes before. They never knew that even though the water is clear it is unsafe to drink. Now a lot has been changed and I hope the community keeps improving from this project.”

One beneficiary in Region noted - “My daughter comes home and tells me we have to be safe with our water.”

Unity

There can be only be one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

“MOBILIZING THE POWER OF HUMANITY”
The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is guided by seven Fundamental Principles:

*Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary service and Unity.*

Our mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing "the power of humanity."

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**Calendar of events**

**Volunteer Development Training**

**Road Safety Month Activities**
Nov 2010.

**World Aids Day Activities** - Dec 01, 2010.

**International Volunteer Day Activities** - Dec 05, 2010.

**CBHFA National Roll Out** - Oct/Nov 2010

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**Universality**

_The international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide._

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