



# NORTHEAST TENNESSEE REGIONAL



National MRC: A national network of local groups of volunteers committed to improving the public health, emergency response and resiliency of their communities.

Hello, Northeast Region MRC Volunteers!

July marks the beginning of the fiscal year for the state. It's simply an administrative detail but it was time to pull together our end-of-the-year report. I was stunned and humbled by your efforts as an MRC unit! **For the year, this unit worked 2,322 hours** (up from 1,334 hours in 2022-23) **for 580 shifts** (up from 416 shifts in 2022-23) **for a whopping value of \$87,202.00** (up from a very impressive \$44,625.00 in 2022-23). From all of us in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program within the Northeast Public Health Region, I share a heartfelt "Thank you!" The investment you make in the communities of northeast Tennessee does not go unappreciated.

We also enjoyed a successful **2024 MRC Conference: Where Superheroes Hangout** held at the Bristol Regional Medical Center on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The conference was a collaboration among our unit, Sullivan County MRC, and Southwest Virginia MRC. There were 65 people in attendance who learned about resilience, opioid addiction, administering Narcan, using tourniquets, hearing from MRC leaders, and tapping our toes to the band, Stinkfüss! Oh, and the massage therapists who provided mini-massages were greatly appreciated!



*Registration & Food at the 5/18/24  
MRC Conference*



*Opening remarks in the Willow  
Room 5/18/24 MRC Conference*



*Frankie Nunley giving out Narcan Kits at  
5/18/24 MRC Conference*

You will notice a change to the format of this MRC newsletter, and many of you may recall a direct email sent out encouraging you to bookmark the webpage [MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS – NETennHCPC \(nethealthcoalition.org\)](https://www.nethealthcoalition.org). The newsletter has been moved to the MRC page at the Northeast TN Healthcare Preparedness Coalition's website and will cease being sent out as part of a monthly test alert. All of the opportunities for training, teaching *Readys!* classes, educating communities about emergency preparedness the Carter County DART, and recruiting MRC volunteers throughout the region will be continuously updated at the Coalition's MRC page. Please check regularly to stay involved as a volunteer! This newsletter will become a space to learn more in-depth details about our MRC unit. For the next few months, I will send direct emails reminding you to bookmark this page, so please be patient as we all get used to this new process.

All the best,  
*Jayne Harper*



1<sup>st</sup> Row: Kim Bordeaux, Shelby Blevins, Bailey Richie, Flurry (horse), Cisco (horse), Keisha Richie, Irene Hepler, Anita Weiss, Billy Harrell; 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Bart Richie, Jayne Harper



Cisco (horse), Anita Weiss, Bart Richie, Irene Hepler & Raylynn Richie

## **Birds of a feather flock together! Recruit-A-Friend!**

It could be said there is a type of person who becomes an MRC volunteer. At least we share similar characteristics – compassion, patience, dependability, team-player, commitment, creativity, humility...Many times we choose our friends based on recognizing similar attributes in one another. In fact, some wonderful friendships have developed among volunteers who have met during unit training sessions or events. To continue this line of thinking, the Northeast TN Healthcare Preparedness Coalition has purchased MRC challenge coins (“recruitment coins”) to thank MRC volunteers who recruit their friends or family members to join as MRC volunteers and take advantage of training, events, and emergency response together.

The 2 ¼” coins are attractive and one will be given to the person who recruits someone and to the person who is a new MRC volunteer. The Coalition supports both units in our region, Northeast Region MRC Unit and Sullivan County Metro Unit. They are literally tokens of appreciation for doing what you are already doing! Please let me know when new volunteers have joined because you invited them. This is a recruit-a-friend campaign that will continue all fiscal year!



## Gratitude & Impact

Please acknowledge everyone who has given generously of their time and expertise during **May and June 2024** on behalf of our MRC unit. We had MRC volunteers from Sullivan County join too:

Blessing Awolade  
Dottie Blades  
Bill Bridgforth  
Carol Bittering (Sullivan)  
George Bridwell  
Agnes Boateng  
Gladys Bolawa  
Kim Bordeaux  
Emilie Bordeau  
Shelby Blevins  
Jerry Blevins  
Denny Buchanan  
Amber Carter  
Linda Christiansen  
Marcla DePolo  
Christine Denny  
David Edwards  
Mercy Falade  
Kathy Fraser  
Karen Hampton

Amy Harrell  
Roger Henley  
Wanda Henley  
Irene Hepler  
Amy Herrel  
Wilkes Harper  
Matthew "Shawn" Janairo  
Gary Kemp  
Mike Lane  
Kat Latham  
Frank Liebe (Sullivan)  
Carolyn Lawson  
Michelle Livingston  
James Mason  
Christopher Meyer  
Henry Miller  
Leanne Miller  
Thaddeus Noto  
George Odom  
Oluwatope "Richard" Ojo

Philomena Osei  
Aishat Olatunji  
Lynn "Petey" Peters  
Donald Pfaefflin  
Amy Poore  
Shannon Posada  
Beverly Pritchard (Sullivan)  
Susan Rasmussen  
Ashley Reese  
Diana Reese  
Rhonda Roberts  
Shanna Shelton  
Ashleigh Shipman  
Hannah Sigmon  
Angie Sybert  
Kristy Tipton  
Valerie Waruszewski (Sullivan)  
Michael Wells  
Anita Weiss



*Mini-CERT: Medical Operations Class Members 5/30/24*



*Mini-CERT: Medical Operations Training 5/30/24  
L to R: Hannah Sigmon, Michelle Livingston, Emilie Bordeau, Matt Clark, Thaddeus Noto*

### **Thanks for all the community activities and participation in training!**

May & June MRC Unit #1340 Activities:

- **Stop The Bleed Instructor Training:** May 3, 2024 in Johnson City
- **FEMA ICS-200 In-Person Class:** May 7, 2024 in Johnson City
- **The Readys! class:** May 9, 2024 at Rogersville Health Department
- **MRC Orientation & POD Training:** Virtual session at 12 pm / In-person at 6 pm, May 15, 2024
- **2024 MRC Conference: Where Superheroes Hangout:** May 18, 2024 in Bristol, TN

- **Carter County DART Knot-Tying Training:** May 22, 2024 in Elizabethton
- **Mini-CERT: Medical Operations Class:** May 30, 2024 in Johnson City
- **Extreme Heat Tabletop Exercise:** June 3, 2024 in Hawkins County
- **Friends of Carter County DART Meeting:** June 5, 2024 in Elizabethton
- **Mental Health First Aid Class:** June 5, 2024 in Johnson City
- **MRC Advisory Committee Meeting:** June 11, 2024 (Virtual)
- **CPR/BLS for MRC Volunteers:** June 14, 2024
- **Friends of Carter County DART Board Meeting:** June 14, 2024 in Elizabethton
- **Nurse Strike Team Quarterly Training:** June 21, 2024 in Johnson City
- **Amateur Radio Communications Exercise:** June 22, 2024 in Roan Mountain

## **The Birth of a New Non-Profit: Friends of Carter County DART**

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Friends of Carter County (TN) DART was born! The Board of Directors and Officers stepped into their new positions and accepted finalized by-laws. It is official, this group has begun carrying out their mission to provide event fundraising, donation fundraising, and grant support for the Carter County Tennessee Disaster Animal Response Team (CC DART). **People with marketing skills, business acumen, accounting, and/or resource raising skills are encouraged to get involved!**



The Friends of Carter County DART will hold meetings immediately following DART training seminars. The **next DART training is *The Readys! Emergency Preparedness for People with Access & Functional Needs* on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm and the “Friends” meeting will be from 7:30-8:30 pm. We meet at the Carter County Emergency Management Agency at 525 S. Sycamore Road in Elizabethton.** Both meetings are open to MRC volunteers and the public. Feel free to bring your supper to the meeting as the group is casual. Questions? Email: [friendsofccdart@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofccdart@gmail.com)

## **Northeast Region MRC Unit Fast Facts**



Rhonda Roberts & Kim Bordeaux lead *The Readys!* at ALPS Adult Daycare Center in Greeneville 4/3/24

On 6.30.24 there were **447** volunteers in our unit.

Between May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup>: MRC volunteers donated **682 hours** during **142 “shifts”** for a total worth of **\$23,500!**

## Exercises for MRC Volunteers Coming Up! Please Join!

In August and September, there are exercises planned to support MRC volunteers in planning and carrying out sheltering operations. The sheltering exercises will be for cattle and/or horses to fulfill a funding requirement for the Carter County DART. **All MRC volunteers may find the exercises helpful** for learning processes for communicating with various community partners and setting up a location out of harm's way to protect farmers' livestock. All volunteers and community partners are invited to participate and learn where we excel in our work and where we may need additional training. One does not need to be a member of the DART to join!

**Tabletop Exercise for a Natural Disaster** Affecting Cattle &/or Horses on **Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am-1 pm at Carter County Health Department**. This will be a "paper" exercise to better plan among community stakeholders that need to be involved and the considerations needed ahead of setting up a sheltering operation to move animals to a safe location for the duration of the threat to their safety and health.

**Full-Scale Walk-Through Exercise for a Natural Disaster** Affecting Cattle &/or Horses on **Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 8 am-5 pm at Ed Williamson's Farm in Jonesborough**. This will be an exercise to set-up, practice Standard Operating Procedures, and breakdown the large animal sheltering operation. Some people may only desire to participate in portions of the exercise and all are welcome.

Visit the Northeast TN Healthcare Preparedness Coalition's website at [nethealthcoalition.org](http://nethealthcoalition.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page for a listing containing this opportunity. Or contact Jayne Harper to learn more details and register for the exercise: [Jayne.Harper@tn.gov](mailto:Jayne.Harper@tn.gov) or 423.979.4596.

## Opportunities for Education & Service

Visit the Northeast TN Healthcare Preparedness Coalition's website at [nethealthcoalition.org](http://nethealthcoalition.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page for all of the updated opportunities!



Are you ready for summer weather?  
Get #SummerReady!

[Get #SummerReady | Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov)  
[Extreme Heat | Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov)

A leader is best when  
people barely know  
he exists, when his  
work is done, his aim  
fulfilled, they will say:  
we did it ourselves.

—LAO TZU



HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE  
You never know when you might need it.