• Special to the Daily Leader

Red Cross is responding to disasters down the street, across the country and around the world.

With March proclaimed as Red Cross Month, Cimarron American Red Cross today recognized and thanked the supporters and volunteers whose efforts enable the Red Cross to respond to disasters down the street, across the country and around the world.

“The Red Cross works tirelessly to be there with help and hope when people need it most – and we are grateful for the public support that enables us to continue our work – here at home and abroad,” said Sherry Helmke, manager. “Our community and our nation depend on the Red Cross in times of need, and the Red Cross depends on the support of people in America to achieve its mission.

“During Red Cross Month, we want to recognize the valuable supporters whose generosity makes the work of the American Red Cross possible,” Helmke continued. “In addition, Red Cross Month is a great time for people to get involved with the Red Cross, such as donating blood; signing up for a CPR, first aid or another Red Cross course; giving a financial gift that can really save the day when the next disaster strikes or getting involved as a volunteer.”

The Red Cross provides shelter, food, comfort and hope to survivors of nearly 70,000 disasters each year; helps prepare communities for emergencies; is the largest single provider of the nation’s blood; teaches lifesaving skills to more than five million people a year; supports military members and their families and provides international humanitarian aid.

The American Red Cross touches the lives of millions of people every year through its network of 34,000 employees and more than 600,000 volunteers in more than 2,000 locations across the United States and more than 30 countries around the world.

“The Red Cross has responded following the Haiti earthquake in January, working to turn despair into hope,” Helmke said. “The Red Cross is still in Haiti and setting up in Concepcion, Chile, right now – and we are also here each day across the country for families who need us.”

Although major disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and wildfires capture national media headlines, the day-to-day work of the Red Cross often takes place in local communities. In the past year, the Cimarron American Red Cross responded to 13 local emergencies, assisted six military families and trained more than 1,300 people in lifesaving skills. And, people from this area donated more than 500 units of blood.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation in 1943, recognizing the American Red Cross as a true reflection of the humanitarian and volunteer spirit and calling on Americans to “rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross.” Every president since that time has recognized the work of the Red Cross with a Red Cross Month.

A community Red Cross Blood Drive will be conducted from noon to 6 p.m. March 25 at Western Avenue Church of Christ located at 215 S. Western Ave. To make an appointment today, call 1-800-GIVELIFE.

A Community CPR/ First Aid class is conducted the third Saturday of every month. Must pre-register and pre-pay.

For more information, volunteer opportunities, to make a donation or sign-up for a life saving class, please call or come by the local Red Cross office at 301 E. 5th St., Liberal, 67901 or call 624-8411.