



WHEREAS, March is American Red Cross Month, a time when we recognize the humanitarian organization that eases people's suffering during life's emergencies in Gaston County, across the United States and around the world. The American Red Cross Serving the Blue Ridge Piedmont has a long history of helping our neighbors in need by delivering shelter, care and hope during disasters; making our community safer through its Home Fire Campaign; providing lifesaving blood; teaching skills that save lives; and supporting military, veterans, and their families. During this Red Cross Month, we thank and honor the selfless volunteers, dedicated employees and generous supporters who make this compassionate work possible; and,

WHEREAS, last year in Gaston County, 112 Blue Ridge Piedmont volunteers assisted our neighbors by providing preparedness education, casework, spiritual care, and support to those in need. In addition, volunteers helped 158 people affected by 42 home fires in Gaston County addressing their urgent needs like food and lodging, and providing recovery support. Meanwhile, when large disasters like the western wildfires, coastal hurricanes and Midwest tornadoes and floods devastated families in other parts of the country last year, 4 volunteers from Gaston County were among the nearly 9,000 Red Cross workers — 90 percent of them volunteers — who left their homes to work alongside partners to provide refuge, food, relief items, emotional support, recovery planning and other assistance; and,

WHEREAS, meanwhile, the Red Cross continues to work with its partners to prevent fire tragedies through its national Home Fire Campaign, which installed its 2 millionth free smoke alarm last year and has saved hundreds of lives across the country since launching five years ago. In Gaston County the Blue Ridge Piedmont Chapter and local partners have installed 181 free smoke alarms and made 111 households safer from the threat of home fires in the past year; and,

WHEREAS, additionally, in Gaston County, the Red Cross trained 2,053 of our neighbors in first aid/CPR, collected 1,960 units of blood, and offered 468 case services through their Service to the Armed Forces program. We recognize the volunteer heroes in Gaston County who make this work possible to help our neighbors when they need a helping hand; and,

WHEREAS, every day, people in our community depend on the American Red Cross, whose lifesaving mission is powered by the devotion of volunteers, generosity of donors and partnership of community organizations; and,

WHEREAS, we dedicate the month of March to all those who support its vital work to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of March 2020 as

American Red Cross Month

and encourages all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

Chad Brown

Bob Hovis

Jack B. Brown, Vice-Chairman

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 24th Day of March 2020