



# WWPHSS Red Cross Club

## Club Accomplishments

- Klean Kits - 12 care packages for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
- Spring Blood Drive - 106 productive units of blood donated

Elections will be held afterschool on Wednesday, May 30th, in T-2. You must have at least 5 club hours in order to vote.

If you're interested in running for office, please note that the applications are due by Friday, May 25, with both an electronic and a hard copy turned in.

## W.H.A.L.E. Tales

*If you know an organization that is interested in our safety education curriculums, please direct them to email [wwpsouthredcross@gmail.com](mailto:wwpsouthredcross@gmail.com).*

On May 4th, multiple groups from South headed over to Maurice Hawk. They taught the EDP children about water safety as part of the program called W.H.A.L.E. Tales. W.H.A.L.E. stands for "Water Habits Are Learned Early," representing the core of the curriculum.

This year was the first year back for W.H.A.L.E. Tales, after a short break out of the South's Red Cross Club's safety education program. Many children are not fully aware of how they should act in emergencies relating to water and may not even know the safe measures that must be taken to avoid them. With a combination of different games, visuals, skits, and arts and crafts activities, members formulated lesson plans to teach water safety rules. These topics included ways they should act at a pool or beach, react in an emergency, and who they should be with while swimming. Since summer is close by, these kids will now be ready to enjoy pool-time and beach-time safely.



## The Pros & Cons of Being an Officer or Chairperson

*The current officers and chairpersons give you the inside scoop on their positions and the qualities required to be a successful leader.*



### President: Joyce Chang

This position is demanding. It is the President's responsibility that everything runs smoothly. Consequently, the most important parts of the job are assigning work and verifying work completion. If an officer or chairperson cannot fulfill a responsibility, the President must ensure completion by either reassigning work to another leader or--if it's a last minute situation--doing it themselves. This can be a con if the President is not easily accessible by email, phone calls, text, etc., or does not have available transportation.

A pro of the President's position includes seeing the results our club donations make when dropping off items or doing other "behind-the-scenes" work. Even if the people are merely passing on the donations, the effect on them is immediate. It's great to see them touched and inspired by our donations--especially when they find out they're from teenagers. Another pro is getting to work with other humanitarian organization leaders in our community. It is a motivational experience to see other people also passionate about their causes.

Other helpful qualities for a person interested in this position include a well rounded knowledge of all club events, organization, flexibility, accessibility, and creativity balanced with practicality. As President, Red Cross must be your first priority.



### Vice President: Elissa Lomakova

While there are many responsibilities that come with this officer position, the most exciting, and perhaps the ones requiring the most time and preparation, are the fall and spring blood drives. Writing and sending out meticulous emails, on the other hand, is not as fun. Some of the qualities that will allow you to coordinate a successful blood drive are strong interpersonal skills and careful planning. Good organization will also enable you to write and send out effective club emails.



### Secretary: Satya Gatiganti

The Secretary must be organized, detail-oriented, attentive, and patient. It is also very useful to be good with technology to make the jobs easier. Pros associated with the job include the straight-forwardness with entering hours, improvement of technological and organization skills, and awareness of active club members. Cons include the possibility of making careless errors when entering hours, the extreme focus required when taking meeting-in-minutes, and the number of hours spent in front of the computer.

# The Pros & Cons of Being an Officer or Chairperson



## Community Events Representative:

### Megha Shah

Your job is not only to work on the old events, but also to think of new events. You don't have to worry about calculating hours, but you should be creative and willing to work with a team to help make a difference. Also, you should have a passion for volunteering, and should be outgoing too, as this position requires effective communication skills. Just like all officers, you must be constantly on your e-mail or at least checking your email, (not a problem for those who love to G-Chat.) You should also be able to lead, take authority, and make crucial decisions when you are needed.



## Publicist: Kiran Vaidya

As Publicist, you get the opportunity to be a part of every event, recording memories through pictures and working with all other officers to publicize events. Being an officer itself is a lot of fun and a memorable experience. However, being Publicist is a lot of work; you need to stay on top of things and ensure that club members are always informed. You must constantly update the website and Facebook page, a job that can become tedious and frustrating at times.



## Officer-in-Training: Tiffany Huie

The Officer-in-Training is selected from the pool of underclassmen who lose in the elections—usually the underclassman with the highest hours and greatest participation and enthusiasm in events. You are also invited into the Red Cross Youth Council of Central NJ. This is another opportunity to get even more involved with our community and create larger-scale events while collaborating with students from other schools. This position, though, is time consuming. It is your responsibility to be familiar with all the events and all the officer positions, doing the other officer positions' work periodically.

## Chairpersons



## Blood Drive: Prawallika Gangidi

This position is great for those who love talking to others and meeting new people. You must be willing to be a leader and take charge of the blood drive and its committee. One of the hardest parts of the job is recruiting others to donate. Although it may seem simple, you really have to know how to be persistent and appeal to a wide variety of audiences. Creativity is also a big bonus for this position because you not only have to be open to new ideas, but you should also be able to come up with your own ideas and decide how to initiate them.



## Community Services: Srishti Kulshrestha

With this position, you work with the Community Events Representative to organize and run events. You must also strive to be an effective leader of the Dance-A-Thon committee. Be prepared to send "meeting in minutes" emails, delegate tasks to committee members, and attend some officer lunch meetings when needed. For this position, you need to be creative in order to plan and carry out new events to help the community. This position is a great way to get involved because it calls for direct interaction with the community.



## Public Relations: Monica Mendoza

The PR chairperson is given a fantastic opportunity to work with other members, especially the publicist, the officer-in-training, and the PR committee. You are able to be creative, since you help choose the designs of the bulletin board and newsletter. Although tasks such as editing the newsletters can be time-consuming, completing them is always extremely fulfilling. Like all officer and chairperson positions, you are not able to participate in events that have limited availability (e.g. safety education). This is not a major con, however, because other Red Cross leaders often invite you to get involved in the planning and execution of other events.

## Spring Blood Drive

Because of the hard work put in by the Spring Blood Drive Committee, the second blood drive of the school year was another huge success! Our goal was to collect 90 units of blood, and we ended up collecting 106 units. With that many donations, more than 300 lives can be saved. Volunteers also helped make the blood drive run smoothly; they performed tasks such as registering donors and handing out refreshments.

*Blood Drive Chairperson  
Prawallika Gangidi and  
Blood Drive Committee  
member Christine Torosian  
set up for the event.*



## Member Spotlight: Devin Ou



Devin Ou, a current senior, volunteered in the Spring Blood Drive by creating a memorable video to help inspire others to donate. It was his first year making this video; however, he had plenty of experience from making videos with his friends during his free time. His inspiration to make this video came from the challenge of creating a more impressive Blood Drive Video compared to the previous year's. He recalled "I thought that it would be a good way to test my creative talent, and also support Red Cross in the meantime. The best part of putting together this video was trying to frame all of the parts of the blood drive, such as recruiting, making preparations, and donating inside one short time frame of four minutes."

Overall, Devin, who has also participated in Dance-A-Thon and F.A.C.T., is a reliable Red Cross member. He is also the yearbook photographer, and he enjoys reading as well as playing video games and sports.











