

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*

*Gandhi*



# Blue Light Express

## September is National Preparedness Month

This month is emphasized as National Preparedness Month, but Citizen Corps of Delaware County practices Preparedness all year around! CCDC is an All Hazards response team where we train and practice exercises to make sure that we are ready to answer the call to help mitigate an emergency situation. You will notice the Galaxy Calendar sprinkled with training sessions throughout the fall season. We are starting a new season of CCDC training to refresh our skill sets.

### Planning Works-Training Works-Practicing Works

We are updating our database to gather certified volunteers into User Groups who will be asked to respond to missions to provide instruction of these skills, learned through our training classes, to teach the public in Outreach missions this Fall. Let us know if you have been trained by another entity, provide the certificate and we will add you to the user group.



**Ambition is refusing to give up on yourself.  
Leadership is refusing to give up on others.**

## Hurricane Katrina Got Me Into This Game

By Judy McKinney

I remember watching the desperate people sitting on their roofs with their animals refusing to leave them behind. I just cannot imagine leaving them behind! Seventeen years later, we are all now aware that the health and safety of humans depends in a great part with the care taken to keep the health and safety of their pets as important. Believe it or not, the awareness is present but the reality is that pet shelters in a disaster situation are often times in a separate location.

I joined the Delaware County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Animal Response Team (PART) because of Hurricane Katrina. DeICART is an important organization that strives to educate the public and the government, the importance of including family pets and livestock in an emergency plan in case of disasters, natural or manmade.

I have mentioned before that I was deployed to set up a shelter during Hurricane Sandy in Chester Park. But across the country, people are in hurricane-like situations from just rain! DeICART provides free training focused on all animals in emergency situations and is enlightening, informative, instructional, and important to know. Make a plan for your pets who are family.



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## Hoping for the Best - Planning for the Worst



EMPIECE EL AÑO CON BUEN PIE:  
PROTEGIENDO LO QUE MÁS QUIERE

- Make an emergency plan: choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes, and establish an out-of-town contact.
- Get to know your neighbor and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan.
- Take pictures of you and your family with your pets; have supplies for them and id along with extra leash & collar, food & medicines & carriers.
- Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online.
- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.
- Take a class in CPR and first aid for humans & pets.
- Keep and update emergency supplies; remember to include cash.
- Have back-up power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.
- Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.
- Check your insurance for coverage on disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.
- Sign up for alerts and warnings. Download the FEMA app to get real-time alerts, safety tips, and locate open shelters.
- Find out how to be financially prepared: [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#).
- Spend within your means. Use a personal budgeting worksheet to help plan for holiday expenses and beyond.
- Evacuate animals earlier, whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.
- Make available vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal. Also make available experienced handlers and drivers.
- Ensure destinations have food, water, veterinary care and handling equipment.
- If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to a barn or turn them loose outside.
- Start the year on the right foot. Protecting what you love most.



# Family EM Communications Plan

By Chris Kelleher

## 1. Collect

**Household Information** – Write down phone numbers and email addresses for everyone in your household. Having this written down will help in case you don't have your mobile device, or your battery runs down.

**School, Childcare, Caregiver and Workplace** – Because a disaster can strike during school or work hours, you need to know their emergency response plans and how to stay informed.

**Out of Town Contact** – It is also important to identify someone outside of your local area who can act as a central point of contact to help your household reconnect. In a disaster, it may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call access town because local phone lines can be jammed.

## 2. Share

- Make copies of your family emergency communication plan for everyone to carry.
- Enter household and emergency contact information into everyone's mobile phone.
- Store "In case of emergency" or "ICE" contact on all mobile phones so first responders can identify your emergency contact.
- Create a group list on all mobile phones.
- Make sure everyone knows how to send and receive text messages.
- Know your options for alerts and warnings and sign up to receive emergency information.

## 3. Practice

- Practice texting your out-of-town contact and sending a group text message.
- Discuss what you should text. Short messages are best, like "I'm OK, at library".
- Decide who will be the lead person to send out information about the designated meeting place for the household.
- Practice gathering all household members at your indoor and in neighborhood emergency meeting places.
- Regularly have conversations with household members about the plan, such as who to text/call and where to go.
- Challenge household members to recite important phone numbers from memory.
- Make sure everyone knows how and when to call 911 for help.
- Review, update and practice your plan at least once a year.



Miss Mia Warren receiving a Proclamation for her Mia's Mail gifts to volunteers!

**"A leader must be inspired by people  
Before a leader can inspire people."  
Simon Sinek**



Kline & Koerner  
Former & Current  
CCDC Volunteer Coordinators  
Setting the stage for success!

# The Volunteer Heart

By Bill Wood



**William Wood**  
**Volunteer POD Commander**

Bill lives in Broomall. He has volunteered since before the pandemic.

He spends a lot of time playing with his grandsons. Hobbies include traveling and exploring national /state parks trail hiking.

Bill is currently a substitute teacher at a local high school. He enjoys working with and mentoring children. Bill retired from the United Parcel Service after 30 years as a business development and loss prevention manager. Prior to his career with UPS, Bill worked for 7 years in law enforcement.



Over the past several years I have been volunteering with MANY wonderful dedicated CCDC follow citizens and working with the amazing staff members in emergency services. The first thing I would like to say from my heart to yours is YOU ARE ALL ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY HERO'S! It was beyond belief that so many of you answered the call to help our communities.

In February 2019 I semi-retired and really wanted to devote my new found spare time to volunteering in the community. I had volunteered with various organizations over my career but never heard of CCDC. I found the blue army by doing some research and very glad that I did. That was prior to the pandemic so I did a few food banks and some training.

Then, of course, Covid came upon the world and our county. Suddenly, I started getting emails and texts from Ed Kline that volunteers were needed for testing sites over the county. I was a little concerned about volunteering as there was no vaccines and not much information about COVID. I signed up for a few sites and was overwhelmed by the amount of people both medical and non-medical volunteering. I was inspired to see dedicated citizens in every kind of weather willing to help their community. For those who were around then remember the cold weather but really the hot weather wearing all that PPE. I was in awe of our vaccinators volunteering during the summer at testing sites that were mostly in parking lots in the heat.

Of course, Covid continued and got worse. Meanwhile Ed and his limited staff along with CCDC leadership were planning for vaccination sites. I volunteered at Yeadon when it first opened and saw over 30 volunteers eager to help. Quickly there were hundreds of people lined up at the door. I also volunteered at Aston where there were two daily shifts with well over 60 volunteers. They were all needed as Aston regularly started doing over 1000 vaccinations a day. As you know we ended up having multiple vaccination sites with hundreds of citizens volunteering every day. IF THAT IS NOT INSPIRING, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS!

I can honestly say that even during these last few challenging years I found a calling for the rest of my life. Working with so many wonderful and talented people toward a common goal that helped so many was one of the best experiences of my life.

Thank you all again for all your professionalism, kindness, and commitment to helping our community during the most difficult of times. It is my pleasure and honor to volunteer with you.

## Oh, One More Thing....

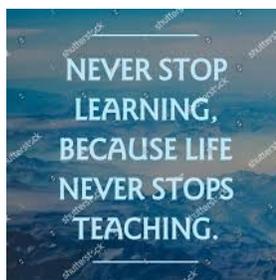
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Share your expert knowledge of things you have experienced. We are students and teachers all of the time.

**citizen**  **corps**  
of Delaware County