



The United Nations Association of the United States of America Columbus Chapter



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UNACOL Welcomes ARC's Vince Costello

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The Columbus Chapter will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, May 13th at the Novice G. Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road in Columbus. The meeting will begin at 12:30 with registration and informal greeting of guests. Invitations were sent to all active chapter members and selected guests and colleagues, however the meeting is very much open to the general public. Cost is \$22.00 for current UNA members, and \$27.00 for non-members. Persons wishing to become members of UNA-USA may do so and attend the annual meeting for \$40.00 total; students wishing the same may do so for \$30.00. Persons wishing to attend the meeting only may do so for \$10.00. RSVP is requested to MKaloga@unacol.org, however payment at the door is also accepted.

The keynote will be delivered by Vince Costello, the Director of International Services for the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Red Cross. Perhaps lesser known than its domestic counterpart, the International Services Offices help vulnerable people around the world to prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters, complex humanitarian emergencies, and life-threatening health conditions.



The American Red Cross accomplishes these goals by working within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement—the world's largest humanitarian network with 181 national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and more than 100 million volunteers. In all its work, they abide by the seven fundamental principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality. International Services initiatives focus on primary health care, emergency response and preparedness, restoring family links, and the dissemination of international humanitarian law. For each of these priority areas, Red Cross promotes cost-effective, community-based programs, which target large numbers of people with humanitarian aid that is rapid, effective, and large-scale.

Primary health care – Red Cross primary health initiatives focus on reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating infectious diseases.

Emergency response and preparedness – Emergency response activities focus on relief supply distribution, water and sanitation services, and family linking. Red Cross also implements disaster preparedness programs to create more resilient communities with decreased dependence on external relief assistance.

Restoring family links – In collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross and 181 national societies, the American Red Cross works to locate loved ones who are missing due to war, natural disaster, or civil unrest and sends Red Cross messages between separated family members.

Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law – The American Red Cross educates the American public about the guiding principles of international humanitarian law, as set forth by the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Some portions of this article were derived from ARC and ICRC press releases.