



Bob and Sue Hassmiller, Photo Courtesy of the American Red Cross

Sue desires that the Legacy Award funding be made to the Sue Hassmiller Red Cross Nursing Award in honor of her late husband, Bob Hassmiller.

The Story of the Hassmiller Award:

My normally unflappable husband, Bob, was nervous. In fact I hadn't seen him this nervous since being asked to hold our first child. We were closing on the sale of our home – downsizing. "Nervous about that sale?" I asked. A laugh and "of course not," he said. He sat me down and blurted out that after nearly three decades of marriage and a policy of joint decision making on major decisions, he had decided to make a very big decision on his own!

He, had in fact implemented it, and had used the proceeds from the sale of our house to do it. Now, he had my attention, because I had some plans for those funds, after all. And then he told me... Bob said that it was my dedication and passion for the Red Cross that caused him to take a good chunk of the profit from the sale of the house and spend it on something far more important than any material possession he could think of. It's the Red Cross he said. That organization means so much to you, to us. They helped you find your parents when they were in an earthquake in the 70's...alive and well. It's all arranged he said...I have given the Red Cross the money to start an endowment in your name to do whatever you feel most needs to be done, according to your passion.

Nursing is my passion and Red Cross nursing my double passion. So we launched the Susan Hassmiller Nursing Award in February of 2008.

Award Overview:

The American Red Cross Susan Hassmiller Nursing Award, a one-time \$5,000 grant, was established in 2007 to enhance Red Cross local service delivery capacity through the increased engagement of nurses in policy, leadership, and service delivery positions. The awards panel looks for programs or activities that boost nurse involvement in one or a combination of the Red Cross lines of business: Biomedical, Disaster, International, Preparedness Health & Safety and International Services.

Award Eligibility:

Preference is given to applicants whose proposed program/activity:

- Enhances the unit or units' ability to effectively engage nurses and/or student nurses for disaster preparedness and response, Preparedness and Health and Safety Services Service to the Armed Forces or Biomedical Services
- Enhances the capacity or reach of an existing program in a significant manner.
- Is sustainable once the award money has been spent.
- Can be replicated by other units.
- Is enhanced through matching dollars and/or in-kind resources.
- Utilizes community partners/organizations to enhance and expand the reach of the program/activity.
 - Applicants must agree that, if selected, they will submit their program/activity for inclusion in the national headquarters Best Practice database.
 - Recipient(s) must be available to attend the American Red Cross National Awards and Recognition Ceremony held in Washington, D.C.

Examples of Past Award Recipients to Demonstrate Public Health Focus:

2008 Lancaster County Chapter, Lincoln, Nebraska

Right from the beginning this award not only recognized Red Cross nurses but also their public health practice. The Lancaster County Chapter used their funding to develop a collaborative with the public health department and used technology to help train nurses in disaster preparedness and response statewide.

2009 American Red Cross of Greater Arkansas

This chapter started a program to train student nurses for shelter care and disaster response, starting as a single university program. It is now a regular offering at National Student Nurses Association Annual Conferences and went on to provide the foundation for the national Red Cross nursing student program.

2010 Alaska Chapter of the American Red Cross

This project trained a cadre of public health nurses who travel to the farthest remote areas of the state to also be Red Cross disaster nurses. The program made a true difference of integration of nurses into the disaster field and state public health disaster readiness.

2011 National Capital Chapter, Sacramento, California

A partnership with Samuel Merritt College provides a robust community health clinical nursing experience. This highly replicable program graduates nurses with not only a broad knowledge of the Red Cross, but an awareness and thirst for how they might serve as volunteer leaders once they graduate. This project ultimately went on to form the Service Learning focus that continues as a premiere focus of the Office of Nursing and Health, linking public health nursing students to population-based opportunities.

2013 Red Cross of Chesapeake Region, Maryland

Phillip Bovender, the Maryland State Nurse Liaison appointed by the Chief Nurse of the Red Cross, submitted the nomination following a tour of the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region Immunohematology Reference Laboratory (IRL) with a group of Coppin State University nursing students. During the tour, the group learned about the critical need for matching blood types and the importance of boosting African American donations to treat sickle cell anemia patients. After learning about the uniqueness and disparity of African American blood donation, Bovender's application proposed a symposium for nursing and public health leaders on healthcare disparity to address the need for increasing the African American donor pool, a poster contest and production of high school and college educational materials.

