

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 21-049

**IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2021)
AS AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH IN FRESNO COUNTY)**

WHEREAS, March is American Red Cross Month, a special time to honor the kindness of our neighbors who aid families in need every day in Fresno County, across the United States and around the world. Their dedication touches millions of lives each year as they carry out the organization's 140-year mission of preventing and alleviating suffering; and

WHEREAS, During the trying times of the coronavirus pandemic, people have stepped up to help others in need, whether it was responding to this year's record-breaking disasters across the country or rolling up their sleeves to give blood when our country faced a severe blood shortage; and

WHEREAS, Here in Fresno County, local families have relied on American Red Cross of Central California volunteers for comfort and hope while coping with disasters such as the Creek and SQF Complex Fires. Last year, close to 200 Red Cross volunteers from across the country provided close to 2000 individuals from Madera, Fresno, and Tulare counties shelter in 50 hotels across 4 counties. From July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 volunteers also helped 108 families affected by 79 home fires in Fresno County by addressing their urgent needs like food, lodging and recovery support; and

WHEREAS, American Red Cross of Central California volunteers have supported local families in other ways too. Last year in Fresno County, the Red Cross assisted 215 service members and their families or veterans with emergency communication or critical community services, educated elementary aged children about preparedness through our Pillowcase and Prepare Pedro program, taught High School leaders about International Humanitarian Law through our Youth Action Committee, provided preparedness planning and resources to businesses and organizations through our Ready Rating program; and

WHEREAS, This lifesaving work is vital to strengthening our community's resilience. Nearly 200 years since the birth of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, we dedicate this month of March to all those who continue to advance her noble legacy, and we ask others to join in their commitment to care for people in need.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims March 2021 as American Red Cross Month and encourage all Americans to reach out and support its humanitarian mission.

