



In the know:

February 17 - Active Violence Training

March 16 - First Aid/Triage/Stop the Bleed

April 13 - CPR Hands Only

April 20 - CPR BLS (Certification)

May 18 - Telemedicine Overview

An All Volunteer - Nonprofit Organization

Heroes aren't born. They volunteer!

Fun Facts

- [Additional Resources](#) are available FREE to MRC GEM Volunteers on its website from FEMA, GEMA and even the National Response Framework

QUICK LINKS:

- [GNR Public Health](#)
- [Healthcare Coalition - Region D](#)
- [MRC GEM](#)
- [Alerts and Warnings](#)
- [National MRC](#)



2023 INDUCTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME

Dr. Terry Eng and Gary Johnson

Some people have gone so far beyond merely special as to deserve a category all their own. These are the members of our MRC GEM Hall of Fame.



2023 MVP (Maximum Volunteer Presence)

Louise Clarke

Honoring the volunteer who has made the greatest commitment of time and energy during the year.

2023 Rookie of the Year

Dr. Ariel Troncoso

New members who have attended the greatest number of events since joining in the prior 12 months.

[View all of MRC GEM Special Recognition Page](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

NACCHO has released 2022 Network Profile of MRC Two Decades of Service

- 89% of units developed medical Point of Dispensing (PODs) or mass vaccination capabilities.
- 70% of MRC units are housed within their local health department.
- 83% of MRC units conducted background checks for at least some of their volunteers.
- The largest source of funding to support MRC units came from NACCHO's MRC COVID-19 Respond, Innovate, Sustain, and Equip (RISE) Award.



Promoting Use of MRC Volunteer to support Radiation Incidents

MRC GEM unit has 20 specialized radiation volunteers who have been trained and ready to be deployed to support any locality within Georgia or through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to support other neighboring states. Sherwin Levinson the Executive Director and the MRC Unit leader of MRC-GEM explains that there are two types of foundation trainings that he recommends for the radiation volunteers to take. [Read full story.](#)

MRC GEM IN THE NEWS



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



The Georgia East Metro Health District Medical Reserve Corps (MRC GEM) prepare emergency response kits. COURTESY OF MRC GEM PREP KITS

These volunteers are unseen heroes of emergency prep

MRC GEM may help save your life next time disaster hits

By Karen Huppertz | For the AJC

During the next tornado aftermath or pandemic outbreak, a group of very dedicated volunteers could be the ones to help save your life. The Georgia East Metro Health District Medical Reserve Corps, known as MRC GEM, is a nonprofit working closely with the Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale County health departments, emergency managers and homeland security to prepare for the worst-case scenarios.

The group is part of a nationwide network of over 300,000 volunteers who train to help their local communities during emergencies.

"We're really in many ways the envy of the other units because we mesh so well with our local health department," said MRC GEM Executive Director Sherwin Levinson. Sherwin and his wife, Judee, have been a part of the reserve corps 17 and 16 years, respectively.

The organization provides training once a month for anyone willing to apply and join. Volunteers can become CPR and AED certified, learn how to administer Narcan (used during an opioid overdose) or take classes in active shooter training, first aid/triage/stop the bleed, psychological first aid, hazardous material awareness and many more vital topics.

Each year the group also conducts a weekend training summit to tackle more in-depth topics. This past June the group learned how to manage and test for radiation exposure.

During the pandemic, 576 MRC GEM volunteers provided 17,256 hours of

support with approximately 250,000 COVID-19 vaccinations and 125,000 COVID-19 tests. Twenty-nine of those volunteers donated at least 100 hours each.

"That's the equivalent of about 8.6 full-time employees. Based on the average cost of a public health employee in Georgia, that would be worth over \$730,000," noted Sherwin.

The group is often called upon by the health department to provide countless hours to lesser-known emergencies.

Just prior to the pandemic, volunteers helped conduct massive vaccination clinics during an H1N1 flu outbreak.

Then just before COVID-19, the group was called on short notice to Discovery High School in Lawrenceville to help after a case of tuberculosis emerged on campus.

"Every one of the students, faculty and bus drivers had to be tested," said Sherwin. "We administered the tests over two days and then returned to read the results."

Not everything involves direct contact with individuals who might be

sick. There are ways anyone can help. "There are always forms to fill out and lots of paperwork," Judee said.

Participation happens for many reasons.

"My pat answer is to keep me off the streets," joked Chief Information Officer Jim Newell. "But I enjoy learning things and challenges and it gives me something to keep sharp."

"There are all these wonderful people who if given a little leadership and a little direction want to step up and help and have a marvelous array of talents," Judee stated. "Our paths never would have crossed with some of these people without MRC GEM."

For each of these volunteers it is a personal desire to empower the readiness of the community.

"My son and three-fourths of my grandchildren live in Gwinnett County," said Sherwin. "And that's reason enough."

No medical experience or training is needed. Learn more, apply to join or donate at www.mrcgem.com.

FEBRUARY TRAINING



Will be focused on Active Violence (not just shooter) events. A Gwinnett County Police Officer will teach you what to do before, during, and after the violence occurs. Knowing what to do (as well as what not to do) may save lives. [Sign up to let us know you plan to attend.](#)

MRC TESTIMONIALS NEEDED!



Are you passionate about MRC GEM? Want to share with others WHY you joined or participate in MRC GEM? Well, now is the time to share. We want to capture volunteer stories/testimonials for marketing use on our website, along with our social media platforms. If you're interested in being included in a testimonial, you can submit a written or video testimonial to patty@mrcgem.com.

If you're shy and don't like being on camera, you can send us an email with a short blurb of why you volunteer, what you enjoy or even your favorite event you've volunteered in. If you are tech savvy and want to record yourself using your mobile phone, feel free to do so as well. Just make sure you limit your video to no more than 60 seconds. In addition, we will try to capture testimonials at our annual holiday luncheon for those who prefer to have someone record them.

JANUARY MEETING - Winter Preparedness

Speakers from Walton EMC, Anderson Power Systems, Global Power Products, and our very own R Michael Carter discussed winter storm preparedness, power failures, backup generators, and other relevant topics at our January monthly meeting.



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PUBLIC HEALTH
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