

GEORGIA EAST METRO MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS NEWSLETTER

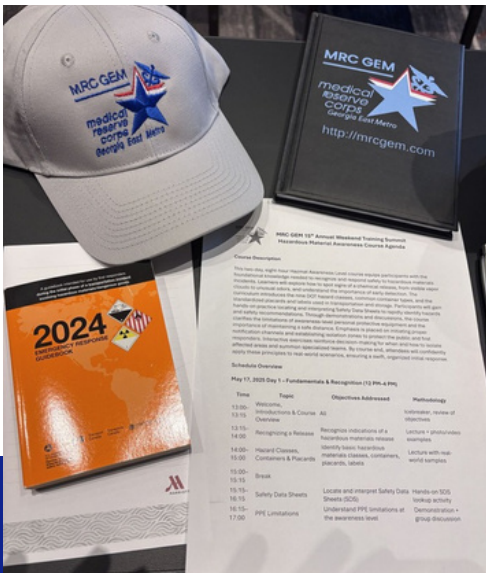


Mission Ready: MRC GEM Volunteers in Action

MRC GEM proudly hosted its 15th Annual Weekend Training Summit on May 17–18, offering a comprehensive two-day Hazmat Materials Awareness course. Volunteers were equipped with the foundational knowledge to recognize and respond safely to hazardous materials incidents, gaining hands-on practice in locating and interpreting Safety Data Sheets. The training also covered the limitations of awareness-level personal protective equipment and emphasized best practices for establishing isolation zones to safeguard both the public and first responders. By the end of the summit, participants left with a deeper understanding of hazmat protocols and enhanced readiness to support our community in emergency situations.



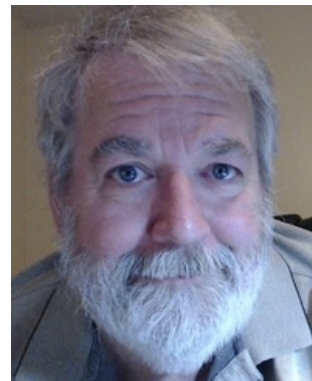
We are excited to welcome our new
Editor-in-Chief for
MRC GEM Newsletter,
Dr. Stacia Wilson



A Hero Among Us

MRC GEM Volunteer Spotlight Featuring:
James Newell

Jim Newell has served as a Board Member and Vice President of Membership for MRC GEM for over 16 years, contributing to humanitarian and disaster relief efforts & earning the Hall of Fame Award in 2016. He is also the Director of Operations for Southern Cargo LLC, with over 45 years of experience in transportation management and warehousing. Jim began volunteering in 2008 with CERT and joined MRC GEM in 2009, completing various training courses such as Stop the Bleed, Advanced First Aid, and radiation detection. We are proud to recognize him as the...



July 2025 MRC GEM Hero Among Us!

MRC-GEM is an all-volunteer nonprofit whose mission is to augment community health operations during large-scale emergencies, aid response to pressing health care needs, and improve community emergency preparedness. Our volunteers speak over 70 different languages and dialects, allowing us to serve Georgia's Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale Counties, a highly diverse population of well over 1.2 million people. COVID is a perfect example.

Heroes aren't born. They Volunteer!

The Preparedness Pot: Insight & Inside MRC GEM

Where we stir together timely updates, expert insights, and must-know information to keep you ready and in the know.

As highlighted in the Georgia MRC Activities & Impact report, units across the state logged a total of 4,875 volunteer hours in 2024. MRC GEM volunteers alone contributed 2,808 of those hours—more than half of the state's total commitment. Out of the 4,984 registered MRC volunteers statewide, approximately 1,350 were serving with MRC GEM at year-end. This remarkable dedication underscores the vital role our volunteers play in strengthening community preparedness and response.



Got a Story to Share?

We'd love to hear from you! If you would like to submit an article to be considered for the MRC GEM Newsletter, please email Stacia Wilson at stacia@mrcgem.com

Your contributions help keep our community informed, engaged, and prepared!

#MRCGEM #StayConnected

Heroes aren't born. They Volunteer!

TRAINING CORNER: SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

ICS-100 & ICS-700 Training July 19, 2025

CSI August 16, 2025

18th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

(For members & their immediate family)

Pinckneyville Park -Medlock Corporate Pavilion

4758 S Old Peachtree Rd, Norcross, GA, 30071 Sept. 14, 2025

WMD October 18, 2025

FEMA Training November 15, 2025

Volunteer Recognition Holiday Luncheon (MEMBERS ONLY)

December 13, 2025

Unless otherwise noted, programs are on the third Saturday of each month, from 9 AM to 12 noon, at GNR Public Health, 2570 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30046. Members' guests and prospective members are welcome to join us on a space-available basis for most programs.

To add events to your calendar or to find out more about upcoming member events, Click the link below:

MRC GEM Schedule



Pictured from left to right: Suleima Salgado, Dr. Terry Eng, MD, Jamie Smith, and Judith Levinson.

Some of our MRC leaders attended the NACCHO Public Health Preparedness Conference in beautiful San Antonio, Texas.

Simmering after the Summit

"On May 17-18 I attended my second Summit and, OMG, it was even better than last year. Two incredible days of exceptional instruction that left me craving more. As a disaster specialist for over 30 years, I've never felt such genuine warmth and connectivity; there are no cliques, just one big happy family that keeps cheering each other on long after the event. Huge thanks to the amazing organizers and leaders who laughed with us, when we annoy them with the same question twice or an obvious answer-type of question. It made me proud to be part of MRC GEM."



-Cindy Sedran

July Preparedness

Stay prepared year-round with free tools from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Click each link below for quick list of activities to keep you and your family ready.

Outdoor Fire Safety

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outdoor-fires/index.html>

#SummerReady aims to raise awareness and help vulnerable communities stay prepared for extreme heat.

To find simple steps to stay prepared, visit: <https://www.ready.gov/summer-ready>

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES Call 1-866-PUB-HLTH anytime, 24/7.

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Stronger Together:
MRC & Partners in Preparedness
COMMUNITY & CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

THANK
YOU



Your Kroger Plus Card can help support our programs at no cost to you. Go to [Community Rewards](#) to enroll your card in support of MRC GEM. After registering your Kroger Plus Card, search for MRC GEM (org. #J1419) and select us as your supported organization. Once you do, Kroger will donate a percentage of what you spend to MRC GEM.

Click each logo to learn more !



Support MRC GEM every time you shop. Donate spare change by automatically rounding up your orders to the nearest dollar at checkout. Go to [Walmart Spark Good](#) for more information and to enroll in the program.



"Empower our community's emergency preparedness—your donation today helps build a safer, more resilient tomorrow."

<https://mrcgem.com/donate>

We are pleased to recognize our valued donors in these ways:

For a donation of \$ 1000 or more, the donor's name and logo will be displayed as a Principal Sponsor at all meetings as well as on the donor web page. Your donation will provide a weekend of in-depth training for 4 or more volunteers.

For a donation of \$ 500 – \$ 999, the donor's name and logo will be displayed as Sustaining Sponsor at one monthly meeting and on our donor web page. Your donation will provide a weekend of in-depth training for 2 – 4 volunteers.

Supporting (\$ 250 – \$ 499) and Preparedness (up to \$ 249) donors will be recognized on our donor web page. Your donation will help us provide regular monthly training sessions for our volunteers.

To verify us directly with the IRS, click the link below:

<https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>

Search for EIN 26-1280067.

Donate

If you prefer to mail a check, please make it out to
"MRC GEM" and mail to:
MRC GEM
2700 Braselton Hwy, Ste 10-193
Dacula, GA 30019-3262

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

Stronger Together

MRC GEM (East Metro Health District Medical Reserve Corps, Inc.) is a Georgia non-profit corporation with IRS 501(c)(3) approval. Donations are tax-deductible as provided by the Federal and State tax codes.

Your gift, no matter how large or small, helps us make our community a safer place for all of us. Since we are an independent nonprofit with no paid staff, we depend entirely on the generosity of donors like you. Every penny you donate goes directly to fulfilling our mission.

You can donate cash directly and conveniently through the PayPal giving fund using your credit card or PayPal account. The full donation amount comes to us; PayPal charges no fee for this service.

Donate



<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/63682>

If you have any questions about donating, please email us at donations@mrcgem.com

We appreciate your interest and support.

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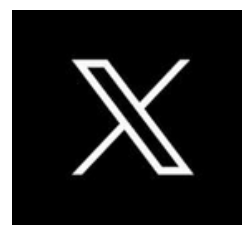
An All
VOLUNTEER
Organization

Visit our website to find out more about becoming a MRC GEM volunteer.
Become an MRC GEM HERO TODAY!

mrcgem.com/join



Find us on Social Media



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