

GEORGIA EAST METRO MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

NEWSLETTER

Headline News

[CDC Surveillance of Cyclosporiasis](#)

[GA DPH: Protect Yourself and Your Family From Cyclosporiasis - Take Precautions When Handling Fresh Fruits and Vegetables](#)

Quick Links

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
[National Weather Service](#)
[American Red Cross](#)

Mission Ready MRC GEM Volunteers in Action

The July meeting centered on family preparedness, covering essential topics such as flood intervention, packing Go Bags, and practicing fire safety.



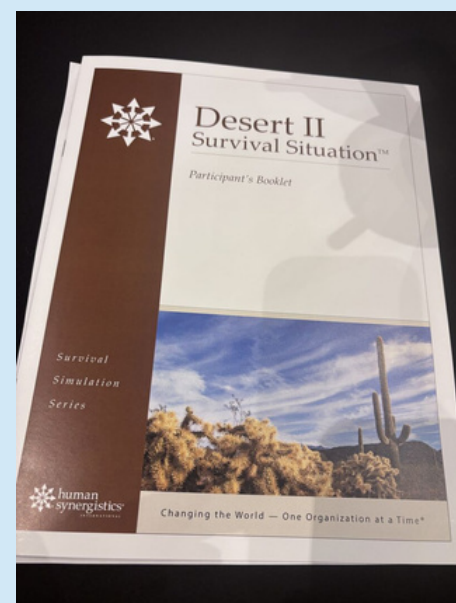
A Hero Among Us MRC GEM Volunteer Spotlight Featuring: Dr. Stacia Wilson

Dr. Stacia Wilson joined [MRC GEM](#) in July 2021. She received the 2025 Maximum Volunteer Presence (MVP) Award after leading community collaboration as the newsletter Editor-in-Chief.



We are proud to recognize her as the...
August 2026 MRC GEM Hero Among Us

The June [MRC GEM](#) meeting featured the members-only 16th Annual Weekend Volunteer Summit, where we hope everyone enjoyed both the class and the fellowship with your fellow members. Day one training covered a Nuclear Detonation scenario focusing on large-scale radiation emergencies. Day two training focused on the Desert II Survival Situation exercise.



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.

Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) Annual HOSA Healthcare Olympics

By Tony Varamo

MRC GEM Members participated in the annual Georgia Gwinnett College HOSA Healthcare Olympics held on April 3, 2026, at the GGC Student Center. The event, hosted by GGC HOSA, included healthcare-related games and prizes, an anatomy-themed cookie contest, pizza, and several healthcare-related organizations, including MRC GEM.

Dr. Terry Eng, Mark Owens, Tony Varamo, and Maia Bravo attended the event to greet potential HOSA members and explain the benefits of joining the MRC. Maia was the GGC HOSA event coordinator and ensured everything ran smoothly and on schedule. She did a wonderful job keeping the audience engaged while helping to keep participants energized throughout the event.

HOSA-Future Health Professionals is an international student-led organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education to promote career opportunities in the health industry for students. HOSA's purpose is to empower students interested in health science and biomedical science to become leaders in the global health community and is open to middle school, high school, collegiate, and adult students. Benefits of joining HOSA include networking with healthcare professionals, leadership development opportunities, motivational and recognition programs, and coordinating competitive events.



Lt to Rt: Tony Varamo, Dr. Terry Eng, Maia Bravo, Mark Owens

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 Dr. Stacia Wilson at stacia@mrcgem.com

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

#MRCGEM #StayConnected

TRAINING CORNER: SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

<u>Emergency Communication Media</u>	Aug 15, 2026
<u>19th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic</u>	Sept 27, 2026
1-3 pm at Danny Cochran Pavilion 4758 S Old Peachtree Rd, Norcross, GA, 30071	
<u>Emergency Operations Center & 911 Center Tour</u>	Oct 17, 2026
<u>Power Systems Safety</u>	Nov 14, 2026
<u>Holiday Volunteer Recognition Luncheon - Members Only</u>	Dec 12, 2026

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.

Attention Please...
The 2026 training schedule is now available!



To add events to your calendar or to find out more about upcoming member events, Click the link below:
[MRC GEM Schedule](#)

Want to know about events beyond MRC GEM? We send out a separate newsletter featuring community events and trainings. To get on the list, simply email membership@mrcgem.com with the subject line "Sign up for VTO."

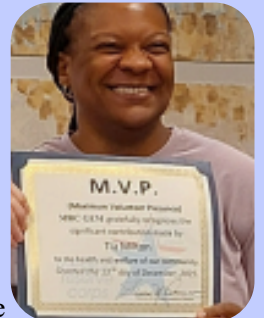
Building public trust means recognizing false narratives and responding with clear, accurate, easy-to-understand information.



A Quick Guide to Public Health Misinformation

Simmering after the Summit

"The summits are useful because they present opportunities to receive more in-depth information and training than the monthly meetings allow, but the under-appreciated benefit of these meetings is the opportunity to connect and have fun with other volunteers. As we complete the icebreakers after dinner, people start loosening up and interacting outside of their usual social circles. By the time we've finished playing Pictionary, everyone's laughing, enjoying each other's company, and bonding, which ultimately makes us a stronger team"



-Tia Milton, Esq

Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise

Multiyear Budget: Fiscal Years 2025-2029

July 2026

aspr.gov

ASPR Releases Five-Year Plan to Strengthen Medical Countermeasure Preparedness...[Read More](#)

MRC Response to the Opioid Public Health Emergency...
[Read More](#)

BY THE NUMBERS

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS RESPONDS TO THE OPIOID PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

37 States and U.S. Territories	670+ Activities
2,600+ Volunteers	7,100+ Hours
170+ Units	\$280K Economic Value Time Donated

ASPR

Summer Preparedness

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

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

Summer Safety Tips <https://www.ready.gov/summer-ready#tips>

#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.

Heroes aren't born. They Volunteer!

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. #JI419) 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
2026

Candid.



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

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.

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

We appreciate your interest and support.

Heroes aren't born. They Volunteer!

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

