The Red Cross is an international humanitarian Movement founded in 1863 in Switzerland, with National Societies worldwide that provide assistance to persons affected by disasters and crises, armed conflict and health crises. Roots of the Red Cross date back to 1859, when Swiss businessman, Henry Dunant, witnessed the bloody aftermath of the battle of Solferino in Italy, where there was little medical support for injured soldiers. Dunant went on to advocate for the establishment of national relief organizations made up of trained volunteers who could offer assistance to war-wounded soldiers, regardless of which side of the battle they were on. In 1859, The bloody battle was between Franco-Sardinian and Austrian forces near the small village of Solferino, Italy. The fighting had left some 40,000 troops dead, wounded or missing, and both the armies, as well as the residents of the region, were ill-equipped to deal with the situation. By 1862, Dunant published a book, Memories of Solferino, in which he advocated for the establishment of national relief organizations. The following year, Dunant was part of a Swiss-based committee that put together a plan for national relief associations. The group, which eventually became known as the International Committee of the Red Cross, adopted the symbol of a red cross on a white background, an inversion of the Swiss flag, as a way to identify medical workers on the battlefield. In the 1870s, the Ottoman Empire began using a red crescent as its emblem, in place of a red cross; many Islamic countries continue the practice today. In late 1863, the first national society was started in the German state of Württemberg. By 1864, 12 countries signed on to the original Geneva Convention, which called for the humane treatment of sick and wounded soldiers, regardless of nationality, and the civilians who came to their aid. In 1901, Dunant received the first-ever Nobel Peace Prize; his citation for the award stated: “Without you, the Red Cross, the supreme humanitarian achievement of the nineteenth century would probably have never been undertaken.”

Source

History of the ICRC. International Committee of the Red Cross.
As Henri Dunant, Founder of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, believed, everyone should believe that absolutely NO ONE SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND.

The Belize Red Cross Society is nearing the end of its 5-year Strategic Development Plan (2016-2020) and as such, through the development of our new Strategic Development Plan (2021-2025), as well as the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent’s Strategy 2030, will be exploring fresh outlooks and approaches, renewed, stronger and new partnerships, and recruiting more dedicated and loyal Volunteers in order to do more, do better and reach farther.

Working with vulnerable groups across the country has revealed that there are still so many people with no “face”, no “voice”, no one listens or sees them. They have been forgotten or put aside and definitely left behind. It is our responsibility, along with our partners, the Government of Belize, NGO’s and all other organizations on the ground, as well as the communities themselves, to see and hear these people. They cry out for improvement in living conditions, for access to vital services, for education, opportunities, to save their children. It is up to us to advocate on their behalf and strengthen their capacity to advocate for themselves, their families and their communities. We must reach these populations and where possible, transform them into Agents of Change, when their stories may be heard and felt, when they can find comfort, inclusion and peace.

The present occurrences within our beautiful country is a testament of the dire need to take action and to work together to achieve unity, love and peace. The Belize Red Cross Society continues to work with partners, e.g, Police, Teachers, Parents, out and in-school youths, as well as with institutions where at-risk youths are housed and hosted, e.g., Kolbe Foundation, Wagner’s Facility and the Youth Hostel, through Conflict Management training within our Street Mediation program. We continue to work with communities each and every day, not only preparing them for response to emergencies and disasters, but also to make informed decisions about livelihoods, health and hygiene and water and sanitation within their homes and community. The Belize Red Cross firmly believes in the saying “Give the man a fish and he eats for one day, teach him to fish and he eats everyday”.

Building resilience, one man, one woman, one child (boy and girl), one family, one community at a time, we can contribute to building capacity, to teaching one to fish, and to ensuring indeed, that absolutely NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND. Together we surely can!
The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is the world’s largest humanitarian organization and is guided by seven Fundamental Principles: **HUMANITY, IMPARTIALITY, NEUTRALITY, INDEPENDENCE, VOLUNTARY SERVICE, UNIVERSALITY** and **UNITY**. This year on May 8th, the Movement celebrated 100 years of hope, 13.7 million volunteers worldwide, 191 National Societies and 166,000 branches. One hundred years is a long time and the celebration provided the opportunity to reflect on the importance of such a great humanitarian organization. In Belize, we are committed to serving vulnerable communities and alleviate suffering wherever it is found without discrimination of any kind.

**HUMANITY**
The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

**IMPARTIALITY**
It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**NEUTRALITY**
In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**INDEPENDENCE**
The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the Principles of the Movement.

**VOLUNTARY SERVICE**
It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

**UNITY**
There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

**UNIVERSALITY**
The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.
The National Agriculture and Trade Show (NATS) is the biggest and most attended entertaining and educational annual event held in Belize. The 3-day event is organized by the NATS Committee within the Ministry of Agriculture with the objective of educating the larger public about the importance of agriculture, its contribution to the Belizean economy and to food security. The show is held every year at the National Agriculture Show Grounds in the Capital of Belize, Belmopan. Every year an average of 30-40,000 persons, Belizeans and visitors, attend the show. The highlights of the event covers a wide range of activities and competitions. This year the agricultural show was held on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of April 2019 under the theme “Innovations in Technology: Driving a Climate Resilient and Competitive Agriculture and Food Sector” and saw the attendance of some 40,000 people, including the Belize Red Cross, who hosted a booth. Hundreds of persons visited the booth to engage in activities, sign up for newsletter, signed up to become a volunteer and learn what the NS does in Belize. A total of 17 volunteers and 10 staff participated.
Diarrheal disease and barriers, Garbage and solid waste disposal, and handwashing education with students at Lucky Strike Government and Belize Rural Primary Schools were conducted by the Belize Red Cross through the CARSI Project: “Strengthening Partnership through Transparency and Accountability”.

STM—Strategic Targeting Methodology is an impartial community selection tool that utilizes member knowledge and experience to identify their community’s capacities and vulnerabilities, which aid in selecting vulnerable communities for interventions. Community Focus groups were conducted in partnership with CEMO and NEMO in Belama Phase 4 & 5 in Belize City, St. Matthews and More Tomorrow Village.
The Belize Red Cross, guided by the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement, serves the people of Belize, especially those most vulnerable, regardless of political affiliation, religious beliefs, race, gender, color or nationality. The Belize Red Cross Society is a member of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Our goal is to alleviate human suffering wherever it is found by mobilizing the power of humanity.

Opportunity Spotlight

Apply Today!

Home Caregiver’s Course

Details
8 week Course (2 days per week)
Theory and 15 hours practical sessions
Certificate upon completion

Requirements
Copy of Social Security Card
Two Reference Letters
Copy of Police Record