

A Little Help from a Friend



Oscar stood on the street with his family and neighbors, watching the flood water seep into their homes. It had been raining for days, and the small river in their town had finally overflowed its banks. The rain was just a sprinkle now, but the damage had already been done. People seemed sad and confused. How would they clean up the mess? Where would they begin? Who would help them?

The answer came as American Red Cross volunteers began arriving in pickup trucks filled with warm blankets, food supplies, and first aid kits. Oscar saw the look of relief on his parents' faces and started to believe that everything would be alright after all. Though the volunteers were strangers to him and his neighbors, they behaved like caring friends. It made this difficult time a little easier to bear.

March is American Red Cross Month. It celebrates this volunteer organization with global outreach founded by Clara Barton in 1881. Red Cross volunteers assist in times of disaster, such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and fires. Their helping hands make a positive difference in the lives of disaster victims like Oscar and his family.

1. What disaster is Oscar's family facing?
☐ fire ☐ flood
☐ hurricane ☐ earthquake
2. In the story, how do Oscar and his neighbors feel about the flood damage?
☐ confused ☐ excited
☐ happy ☐ enthusiastic
3. Volunteers from _____ arrive at the disaster scene to help the victims.
☐ City Hall ☐ church
☐ school ☐ the American Red Cross
4. _____ is American Red Cross Month.
☐ September ☐ March
☐ April ☐ January
5. The American Red Cross was founded by _____ in 1881.
☐ Clara Barton ☐ Abraham Lincoln
☐ Betsy Ross ☐ George Washington