

Nearly 200 guests gather to toast Colonial Crossroads Red Cross

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SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY — Chapter Executive Director Christy Hodde second from left, greets guests at the wine tasting fundraiser hosted by the Colonial Crossroads Chapter of the American Red Cross including, from left: Summit resident Pam Wattick, Madison resident and Board Vice Chairperson Terry Brannin and Summit resident and Board Chairperson Mike Wattick at the start of the wine tasting fundraiser evening.

Nearly 200 people gathered on the front lawn of the Colonial Crossroads Chapter's Summit house for A Toasting of the Reds and Whites wine tasting fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Wine sommelier Connie Fowler provided a sampling of more than 50 different wines and beers while guests mingled and learned more about the Chapter's critical programs and services. The evening's honoree was former Chapter board member and Madison Borough Council President, Jeannie Tsukamoto.

"I'm delighted that so many friends were able to join us this evening," said Christy Hodde, chapter executive director. "I'm especially grateful to our many corporate sponsors including C.R. Bard, Keller Williams Realty and Investor Savings who helped make this a memorable occasion during which we were not only able to honor Jeannie Tsukamoto's contributions but also share the important work done by this chapter every day."

In addition to her Board responsibilities, Tsukamoto was a volunteer with the Chapter's Disaster Action Team which responds to residents in crisis 24/7. She received a proclamation from Jon Bramnick praising her volunteerism and her commitment to giving back to the community. In her speech, Tsukamoto said,

"disasters can happen anytime, anywhere and to anyone. The Red Cross responds every time, everywhere and for everyone."

She asked the guests to imagine what it would be like if there was no Red Cross following a disaster. "There would be no food, no water, no blankets, no shelter, no blood, and no medicine. Disaster victims would have no one and no place to turn to. We must not let this happen."

Summit Mayor Jordan Glatt and Madison Mayor Mary-Anna Holden were on hand to honor Tsukamoto and praise the work of the Chapter. The Disaster Action Team responded to fires in both towns during the past year and sheltered more than 30 individuals affected by a fire in a multi-unit home in downtown Summit last winter.

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