



## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

July 2009

Whether the event is a birth, death, or other critical family matter, the Bluegrass Chapter of the American Red Cross provides emergency communication for Active Duty Personnel and their families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The around-the-clock delivery of messages for local military families is made possible by Red Cross staff and volunteers.

Jay Venguswamy has volunteered as a military caseworker at the Bluegrass Chapter for nearly 10 years. Jay says she chose to volunteer for the Chapter's Service to the Armed Forces program because the work easily fit into her schedule as a mother with young children. After-hours military caseworkers may perform their duties from any location; in fact, all work can be done from home.

Jay volunteers her time one weekend per month to receive after-hours calls from families needing to communicate with a servicemember. She notes that the amount of cases per weekend varies. "Some weekends, I only get three or four cases," Jay says. "Other times, it is quite busy!"

Volunteering for the Bluegrass Chapter has been very fulfilling for Jay, who says she enjoys assisting the military families. "Sometimes the news is happy; other times it is sad," Jay says. "I learn something new every time."

For more information on how you can assist our military neighbors in the Bluegrass, please visit our [website](#).