

GEORGIA EAST METRO MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS
NEWSLETTER

Big Announcement...

**Celebrating our new Executive Director
of MRC GEM and this month's
Hero Among Us**

MRC Volunteer Spotlight Featuring:
Tony Varamo



**MRC GEM receives the
2025 Public Health Award**

On April 5th, MRC GEM received the Public Health Award during the 2025 Glam & Gratitude Gala hosted by Help for Healthcare Professionals, Inc. The event celebrates the leaders, visionaries, and innovators who work to shape the future of healthcare. A special thank you to Tony Varamo (pictured top right) for accepting the award on behalf of MRC GEM.

For over 22 years, Anthony J. Varamo has been a cornerstone of MRC GEM. As a dedicated board member, Tony has provided strategic oversight of our all-volunteer team, expertly managing operations that directly support our core mission. His leadership has been instrumental in maintaining the high level of operational effectiveness essential for responding to both natural and man-made incidents. We are thrilled to recognize Tony not only as one of our longstanding volunteers and board members but also to announce his promotion to the new Executive Director of MRC GEM. Join us in celebrating Tony's remarkable contributions and this exciting new chapter in our organization's journey!



We are excited to welcome our new Editor-in-Chief for the MRC GEM Newsletter,
Dr. Stacia Wilson

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.

During the recent Cobalt Magnet 25 exercise, international, federal, state, and local agencies joined forces to rigorously test and refine their response strategies for radiological emergencies. Our very own Sherwin Levinson, Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS), played a pivotal role by assisting the CDC's Health Physics Cell in developing critical recommended actions, drawing on his expertise as a radiological/nuclear incident subject matter expert. Active on-site from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the week, Sherwin's intensive pre-exercise preparations and ongoing post-event evaluations have been central to shaping the forthcoming After Action Report. This collaborative effort, highlighted by insights from the NNSA exercise, continues to set a high standard for emergency response and preparedness in the face of radiological challenges.

To learn more about Colbalt Magnet 25, visit: <https://www.energy.gov/>

Interested in becoming a Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS): https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_emerging-threats-ross.pdf

Submitted by Sherwin Levinson

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 Stacia Wilson at stacia@mrcgem.com.

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

#MRCGEM #StayConnected

Heroes aren't born. They Volunteer!

Stronger Together:
MRC & Partners in Preparedness
COMMUNITY & CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS



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.

THANK YOU

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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.

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.

Donate



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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

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2025

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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!

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