

GEORGIA EAST METRO MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS
NEWSLETTER

Breaking News

GIVING TUESDAY | DECEMBER 2
MRC GEM MATCHING DONATION ALERT

We are excited to announce that an anonymous donor has generously committed to MATCHING all **Giving Tuesday** donations made to MRC GEM up to a total of \$10,000.00! That means **every dollar you give from now until December 2nd will be doubled**, instantly increasing our impact, expanding our capacity, and strengthening our mission to serve the community.

This is an incredible opportunity, and we're asking for your support.

Your donation = twice the difference.

Please help us make the most of this match by giving on December 2nd.

[Donate.](#) [Share.](#) [Support.](#)

As we enter the holiday season, MRC GEM would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a safe, joyful, and prepared holiday season.



Mission Ready:

MRC GEM Volunteers in Action

In November, MRC GEM members learned how to keep pets safe during disasters, including emergency care, preparedness steps, and what to do if evacuation becomes necessary.



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

A Hero Among Us

MRC GEM Volunteer Spotlight Featuring:

Ellen Jones

Ellen Jones is one of our outstanding 2024–2025 Preparedness Sponsors and a vital leader within MRC GEM. She joined MRC GEM in 2013 and has been a powerhouse ever since. Ellen earned MVP honors in 2017, was inducted into the MRC GEM Hall of Fame, and contributed countless hours to the COVID-19 response. She currently serves as the Radiation Response Strike Team Leader, providing expertise and leadership in radiological emergency preparedness. We are proud to recognize her as the...



December 2025 MRC GEM Hero Among Us!

It's okay
not to feel
merry and
bright.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

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.

Direct from the Directors

To all volunteers of MRC GEM — the Medical Reserve Corps of Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale Counties — thank you for your exceptional service to our community this past year. Your commitment has been instrumental in keeping our team prepared for responses throughout our area of responsibility.

By attending trainings, participating in tabletop and field exercises, and helping recruit new members at fairs and public safety events, you continue to strengthen our readiness and resilience. Your hard work and dedication have helped make MRC GEM one of the top MRC organizations in the country, a distinction recognized by our state-level coordinators and earned through your unwavering efforts.

Wishing each of you a safe and happy holiday season, along with our sincere gratitude for your steadfast dedication to keeping our community safe.

By Tony Varamo, Executive Director and Sherwin Levinson, Founding Executive Director



Need to Know

N

Statement on Recent Changes to CDC's Vaccine Webpage from the National Association of...

The nation's local health departments play a critical role in educating their community members, answering question...

N naccho.org



L.A. County's first flu death confirmed in a season that could be harsh

Health experts recommend an annual flu vaccination for everyone older than 6 months, especially as the holiday season nears.

Los Angeles Times / Nov 19

Weekly Flu Report, 2025-2026

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is pleased to present the Georgia Weekly Influenza and other Respiratory Diseases Report throughout the respiratory viral disease season.

amazonaws.com

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!



TRAINING CORNER:
SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS

Volunteer Recognition Holiday Luncheon (MEMBERS ONLY)

December 13, 2025

Cyber Security/Infrastructure Hardening January 17, 2026

Drug & Opioid Awareness/ Narcan Training February 21, 2026

First Aid/Stop the Bleed March 21, 2026

Unless otherwise noted, programs are on the third Saturday of each month, from 9 AM to 12 noon, at GNR Public Health 2570 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30046.

Members' guests and prospective members are welcome to join us on a space-available basis for most programs.

Attention Please...
The 2026 training schedule is now available!

To add events to your calendar or to find out more about upcoming member events, Click the link below:



MRC GEM Schedule



Building public trust means recognizing false narratives and responding with clear, accurate, easy-to-understand information.



A Quick Guide to Public Health Misinformation

December Preparedness



Stay prepared year-round with free tools from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Click each link below for quick list of activities to keep you and your family ready.



National Influenza Vaccination Week is December 6th-12th, encouraging people to get their annual flu vaccination and highlighting that it remains beneficial to get vaccinated even as the flu season progresses. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/2025-2026.html>

Holiday Fire Safety - Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase the risk of fire in your community. <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/prevent-fires/holiday/>

Did you know:

Almost one-third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

Source: NFPA



To find more resources and information shared during National Preparedness Month, please click the link below :

<https://www.ready.gov>

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES Call 1-866-PUB-HLTH anytime, 24/7.

Heroes aren't born. They Volunteer!

Special Announcement

We're closing out 2025 with a little friendly competition and a big push to grow our volunteer family. From now through **December 31**, every current MRC GEM member has the chance to recruit new volunteers and earn prizes that will be announced at the January 2026 meeting. There's no limit to how many people you can bring in.

How It Works

When a new volunteer applies on the MRC GEM website, they must list your name as the person who referred them.

For their recruitment to count, **each new volunteer must:**

1. Complete the full application process
2. Either hold a valid, acceptable professional license or successfully pass a background check.

Once their application clears, they go on your leaderboard.

Why We're Doing This

This competition helps strengthen our corps, deepen our community impact, and boost our readiness for emergencies.

More trained volunteers = more lives protected.

Prizes?

We're keeping the prize details under wraps for now but trust, they'll be worth it.

Spread the word. Build your team. Let's close the year strong and start 2026 with the biggest volunteer base MRC GEM has ever had.

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

THANK YOU



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.

Click each logo to learn more !



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.

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

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

Donate



<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/63682>

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!

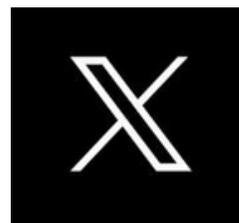
An All
VOLUNTEER
Organization

Visit our website to find out more about becoming a MRC GEM volunteer.
Become an MRC GEM HERO TODAY!

mrcgem.com/join



Find us on Social Media



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