

American Red Cross

Northern Colorado Chapter Overview

History

Red Cross activity began in Larimer County in 1917, when explosive growth of the Red Cross was taking place as Americans rallied to support World War I efforts. Over a thousand Red Cross chapters were chartered that year. On March 20, 1917, a charter was issued to a Larimer County Chapter with headquarters in Fort Collins. This chapter was responsible for all of Larimer County except the city of Loveland (the chapter would assume responsibility for Loveland as well in 1932).

The chapter moved into its current headquarters building in 1972. At that time the location was approximately halfway between Fort Collins and Loveland, and the mailing address was a rural box number. In the years since, both cities have crept up on the site. Now, incorporated areas of both Fort Collins and Loveland are visible from the Chapter House at 120 Saturn Drive, Fort Collins.

The Chapter House was expanded with the addition of two large classrooms and remodeling of existing areas in 1993.

Merger and Re-naming

In 1994, the Larimer County Chapter and the North Park Chapter merged and implemented a name change. The North Park Chapter covered Jackson County (Walden, Rand, Gould, etc.) The merged entity was renamed the Centennial Chapter in order to pay tribute to the fact that Colorado is the Centennial State -- having been granted statehood on the 100th anniversary of the United States -- and because the chapter is in the geographic region described by author James Michener in his novel *Centennial*. (Michener once taught at UNC in Greeley, and the television mini-series adapted from the book was filmed in the local area.)

For ease of recognition, the chapter was renamed again in 2009 to the **Northern Colorado Chapter**.

Taking Measures for Efficiency and Partnership

In 2007, the chapter continued the process of efficiency by joining a regional grouping with Mile High, Southwest and Western Colorado Chapters. Back office consolidation

helped to combine efforts with Human Resources, Information Technology and Finance.
The Greeley and Sterling offices were closed during this transition.