

Display spotlights Red Cross history

By JAY HUGHES
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PASCAGOULA — Photos and newspaper clippings looking back on the 91-year history of the Southeast Mississippi Chapter of the American Red Cross went on display Thursday at the Pascagoula Public Library.

Titled "A Journey of Giving: A Celebration of Volunteerism and the History of the American Red Cross in Jackson and George Counties," the exhibit includes works of art from local school children and professional artists depicting aspects of Red Cross service. The exhibit was researched and organized by Elihu Carranza, community liaison for the chapter, who said it is intended to show the organization's forward momentum.

"What's moving forward is the celebration of volunteers and commitment to the com-



Carranza

service in the area: local chapter news, farming, boating and swimming safety, blood drives, support of armed services members and their families and hurricane shelter and recovery.

Chapter Executive Director Paige Roberts said feedback began to trickle in as soon as portions of the exhibit began to go on the walls of the library earlier this week.

"We have had some older residents of the county passing through. As soon as they catch their eye on something, they start reminiscing," Rob-

erts said. "It shows our organization's history as part of this community," he said.

Newspaper clippings and photos gleaned from many sources touch on various aspects of Red Cross

service in the area: local chapter news, farming, boating and swimming safety, blood drives, support of armed services members and their families and hurricane shelter and recovery.

Among visitors at the grand opening was Wilma Milton of Ocean Springs, who managed the chapter from 1983 to 1994, one of two employees.

"You really need to stop and read some of these," she said, peering at an old newspaper clipping about people she hadn't remembered in years participating in various Red Cross endeavors. "I used to say that if you asked a room full of people what we do, you would get a room full of different answers and they would all be right."

Carranza said mixed perceptions about the scope of everything the Red Cross does was also one of the reasons for the exhibit.

"I thought this would be a good way to dramatize (perceptions) and get folks to come together," he said.