

Ana Montero, Chief Operating Officer, American Red Cross Los Angeles Region

Ana Montero is the Chief Operating Officer of the American Red Cross Los Angeles, the second largest Red Cross region in the United States serving one of the country's most diverse communities and most vulnerable to multi-hazard disasters.

Ms. Montero's office serves more than 88 cities across the Los Angeles region, providing relief for victims of home fires, earthquakes, floods, hazardous material spills, accidents and other natural or man-made disasters. She works with the Executive Team to lead the Red Cross' wide-ranging relief efforts in the greater LA area. These efforts include area, can include sending a volunteer disaster action team to a house fire in the Antelope Valley, leading an earthquake preparedness class in Koreatown and helping Filipino-Americans connect with family in typhoon-stricken Philippines.

In order to serve the needs of such a vast, multi-ethnic population, Montero's ARC-LA office relies heavily on a culturally diverse network of volunteers, Community Ambassadors – volunteers who take responsibility for the neighborhoods where they live and work.

As COO, Montero is responsible for overseeing the organization's overall operations and facilities, as well as leading various Red Cross programs including Service to the Armed Forces, International Services and the California Safe Corps program. Her work as the sponsor of the Prepare SoCal Campaign, involves prioritization and inclusion of communities most vulnerable to disasters, a significant percentage of which include the Hispanic market.

Montero has more than 20 years of management experience. Prior to joining the Red Cross in 2014, she served as New Jersey's Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, where she led a diverse team of more than 300 employees in the implementation of housing and economic development and community resource initiatives. Immediately following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Montero was appointed to lead the New Jersey Disaster Housing Task Force. In that capacity, she assembled a team of federal, state, non-profit and private sector partners to develop the state's immediate housing recovery relief strategy and coordinated with the Red Cross to assist individuals in transitioning from temporary to more permanent housing.

Montero has led workforce development efforts to provide grants for workforce initiatives to New Jersey companies. She also championed efforts to strengthen partnerships with local organizations, private industry leaders, county entities, higher-education and government agencies. These partnerships resulted in improved literacy levels, expansion of industry apprenticeships, and an increase of women and minorities to gaining entry into the construction trades. She has honed her legal skills while serving in various roles to ensure equal employment opportunities and implement diversity initiatives.

Montero has a passion for bridging community partnerships resulting in strategic alliances and positive outcomes. She has been credited for her enthusiastic work on numerous statewide and multi-state partnerships related to community redevelopment, historic preservation, STEM initiatives, industry retention efforts and youth development programs.

Montero holds a law degree from Rutgers University.