

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Warren's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Earns Volunteer Award

Warren, MI – Warren's unique CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) has been named 2015 Volunteer Group of the Year by Citizens Corps Council Region 2 (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Monroe and Washtenaw counties).

CERT is a 70-member volunteer group that assists the city's fire and police departments during emergency situations. Last year, the group donated over 4,500 hours of service to the city.

"These volunteers donate time to help our public safety situations. Without them, police and firefighters would be stretched during emergencies," says Mayor Jim Fouts, "CERT provides an essential and varied service to our city."

Last year, CERT members donated time on the following activities.

- Each winter, members go from fire hydrant to fire hydrant and dig them out for the Fire Department.
- Last year, members identified 75 seniors who were at the lower end of poverty and gave them weather radios which CERT members programmed.
- Members responded to all the senior living centers in Warren and updated “Files of Life” to help first responders.
- Members also trained 20 how to use automatic electronic defibrillators and then taught another 50 CPR.
- During Halloween, set up candy checking stations throughout the city and scanned the candy for metal.
- Assisted other communities that do not have CERT teams during festivals and fireworks for traffic control.
- Members are downed-wire trained and routinely stay with downed wires until DTE can respond. The entire team then stays with each wire until it is fixed so no children are electrocuted while walking to school.
- Volunteered for multiple exercises each year for the state, county and our city’s police and fire training. This includes the Health Department’s point of distribution exercises.

- CERT members are also Red Cross and Salvation Army-trained to run the city's shelter at the city community center. On one occasion, they sheltered and fed over 100 people.