

American Red Cross North Texas Region Inventory Relief



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Jake Succop,
an American Red Cross
volunteer in Dallas, Texas & a
professional implementation
consultant

Company Overview

Since its founding in 1881 by visionary leader Clara Barton, the American Red Cross has been the nation's premier emergency response organization. As part of a worldwide movement that offers neutral humanitarian care to the victims of war, the American Red Cross distinguishes itself by also aiding victims of devastating natural disasters.



Over the years, the organization has expanded its services, always with the aim of preventing and relieving suffering, to include support and comfort for military members and their families; the collection, processing and distribution of lifesaving blood and blood products; educational programs that promote health and safety; and international relief and development programs.

The American Red Cross North Texas Region spans 111 counties across the state and supports 11 Red Cross chapters including chapters in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

The Challenge

With this large population to support, the American Red Cross North Texas Region needs to manage a sizeable inventory of supplies. They were using an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of their inventory levels and locations. Unfortunately, that system had only a 20-30% accuracy rate. They were continuously



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The Requirements

- Simple to implement and straightforward to use
- Customizable to fit their current processes
- Ability to enter multiple vendors for the same product
- Ability to create assemblies in the software so they can track the components of their incident trailers and “comfort kits”
- Durable mobile computers that will be used by volunteers

The complete solution cost effectively fulfills all of the American Red Cross’s requirements and is remarkably supportive to their existing business processes.

finding that items were out of stock or had incorrect inventory counts.

When a disaster hits, there is no time to waste looking for lost items or reordering out of stock items. This was abundantly clear after Hurricane Ike, the third costliest hurricane ever to hit the United States, caused wide-spread damage and flooding across Texas in 2008. The American Red Cross realized that they would not be able to support a large disaster without automating their inventory process.

As a non-profit organization without an IT staff, the American Red Cross needs an inventory control solution that is both affordable and easy to use, but that is robust enough to handle their list of requirements for the solution.

The Solution

The American Red Cross North Texas Region went to SystemID because they are a local company with a great reputation and a long history of education, support, and service of barcode products and solutions. We recommended the Wasp Inventory Control solution paired with Motorola MC9090-G mobile computers that allowed them to collect and manage inventory data while on the move. The complete solution cost effectively fulfills all of their requirements and is remarkably supportive to their existing business processes.

With Wasp Inventory Control, the American Red Cross is able to enter multiple vendors for the same product. Now they can do inventory purchase analysis and make better sourcing decisions. With the rugged Motorola MC9090-G mobile computers, they have peace of mind knowing that even if one is dropped, it would still be up and running.

Another key feature for the American Red Cross is the ability to create assemblies in the software. They use it for their “comfort kits” that are given to clients in shelters. The kits include things like a wash rag, soap, toothbrush, etc. They are able to track the inventory levels of the comfort kit components and reorder them when the levels get low. They also use the assembly feature to stock their large incident trailers. These trailers are sent out to a variety of incidents where the stocked items are used.



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The Benefits and Proven ROI

The American Red Cross has seen remarkable benefits from implementing SystemID's inventory control solution. They went from 20-30% inventory accuracy on an Excel spreadsheet to 94% accuracy! This is even more impressive considering that their inventory count is over 132,000 total items and is spread out over 2,416 locations in 34 separate sites.

Jake Succop, an American Red Cross volunteer in Dallas, Texas and a professional implementation consultant, has been working with the Material Support Services – Logistics department on the implementation process. "I find it amazing that with really just one full-time employee, they can manage over 100,000 inventory items with an inexpensive solution that has the functionality and features of much larger enterprise level systems," said Succop.

The biggest benefit is how the software supports much better inventory planning. This allows the American Red Cross North Texas Region to make better purchase and sourcing decisions. By being able to see what actual inventory levels are, the American Red Cross can more effectively use the generous donations made by the people of North Texas.

The American Red Cross North Texas Region went from 20-30% accuracy on an Excel spreadsheet to 94% accuracy with SystemID's inventory control solution!

About SystemID

Since being founded in 1986, SystemID Warehouse has pioneered the Auto ID market and revolutionized the industry by demystifying the notion that barcodes are difficult to install and use. From our start as a catalog fulfillment company focused on barcoding hardware, SystemID has developed into a full service solutions provider that is able to design, build and deliver cost-effective barcode and RFID-enabled solutions that result in improved efficiency and significant operational savings for our customers.

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