Clarissa "Clara" Barton was one of the most extraordinary women in American History. Like most women of her time, she began her career as a school teacher at the age of 18 (Michals, 2015). She founded a school for workers' children at her brother's mill at the age of 24 and then established the first free school in 1852 in Bordertown, New Jersey (Michals, 2015). in 1854, she worked as a clerk at the US Patent office in Washington, D.C., the first women ever for this position (Michals, 2015). In 1861, during the time of the Civil War, Clara Barton spent the next few years nursing wounded soldiers and providing them with needed supplies on the battlefields risking her own life (Kimball, 2016). It was during this time that she earned the nickname "angel of the battlefield" (Kimball, 2016). Her work in nursing soldiers back to health on the battlefield was a huge contribution for the war. In 1869, Clara Barton needed to regain her health and therefore traveled to Switzerland where she learned about the International Red Cross. Learning about the International Red Cross motivated Barton to bring this organization to the United States. All of her efforts and hard work to establish the American Red Cross came about on May 21, 1881 (Kimball, 2016). Barton was named President of the American Red Cross.

         As a result of Clara Barton's establishment of the American Red Cross, healthcare today has continued with her contributions in providing relief for people affected by disasters. From Hurricanes to deadly mass shootings, the American Red Cross has opened their doors to provide shelters, nursing care, food, supplies, and recovery assistance for those in need.

Kimball, D. (2016). *Clara Barton, Humanitarian and Founder of the American Red Cross.*Retrieved from          http://www.amazingwomeninhistory.com/clara-barton-american-red-cross-founder.

Michals, D. PhD. (2015). *Clara Barton.*Retrieved from http://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/clara-barton.