

News Release



**American
Red Cross**

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givebloodgivelife.org

Lawrence citizens give for 50 years at Red Cross blood drives

For golden anniversary, gift of choice is red

LAWRENCE, Neb. (April 7, 2009) – For 50 years, Lawrence, Neb., has been a place that the American Red Cross can bank on. On April 17, the town celebrates a milestone 50 years of hosting blood drives for the Red Cross.

For this golden anniversary, the color of choice remains red and the only cost is a little time. The Red Cross hopes to collect 72 pints of blood – enough blood to help save the lives of up 216 patients in need. The community is invited to give this lifesaving gift on April 17 from noon to 6 p.m. at the American Legion, 121 North Calvert.

Lawrence touts itself as being a small town with a giant heart. This small community of about 300 people can take pride in its giving nature.

Typically a town this size collects 30 pints at a blood drive. On average, Lawrence collects 70 pints – a strong showing of the community’s and rural residents’ willingness to roll up their sleeves to give blood. Three times a year the community comes out in full force to lend a helping hand to patients in need.

Maureen Menke, who co-coordinates the drive with Sharon Pallas, explains that the generosity seen at the blood drives speaks to the dedication of the donors and willingness of the community to come out and help their neighbors. “People just like to help out when they can,” she said. “I say it every time we have a drive – they’re just great people.”

How to Donate Blood

Simply call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or visit givebloodgivelife.org to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Eligible donors must be at least 17 years old, or 16 years old with a signed Red Cross parental/guardian consent form where state permits, must weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health.

About the American Red Cross

Governed by volunteers and supported by giving individuals and communities, the American Red Cross is the single largest supplier of blood products to hospitals throughout the United States. While local hospital needs are always met first, the Red Cross also helps ensure no patient goes without blood no matter where or when they need it. In addition to providing nearly half of the nation’s blood supply, the Red Cross provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.

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The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood.™