

News Release



**American
Red Cross**

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givebloodgivelife.org

North Central Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross Ranked #1 in the Nation for the Second Straight Year

Regional blood center serves donors, hospitals and patients throughout Minnesota, western Wisconsin and eastern South Dakota

ST. PAUL, Minn. (October 24, 2008) – For the second year in a row, the North Central Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross based in St. Paul, Minn. has been named the top performing region in the national Red Cross system. The North Central Region is one of 36 Red Cross Blood Services regions in the United States.

American Red Cross Blood Services Regions across the country provide blood and blood products to more than 3,000 hospitals, making it the largest single blood provider in the United States. The North Central Blood Services Region is the largest blood supplier in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota with a 60 year history in the community. It serves 111 hospitals in Minnesota, western Wisconsin and eastern South Dakota, including many Mayo Clinic-affiliated hospitals, Fairview Health Services including the University of Minnesota Medical Center, and all 10 Allina Hospitals.

The North Central Region was rated for high performance in areas including growth of red blood cell and platelet donations and distribution to hospitals, quality control, cost effectiveness and hospital satisfaction. “We’re proud to be named #1 Region of the Year again this year,” said Dr. David Mair, interim CEO of the North Central Blood Services Region. “Our volunteers and staff work very hard every day to ensure blood products are available for patients here at home and across the nation. We urge every eligible individual to give blood through the upcoming winter months to help keep those supplies available for all patients in need.”

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.™