



## Soldiers' Angels Support Troops, Help Patients in Need

**MADISON, Wis.** (February 1, 2010) – Across the country, local Soldiers' Angels volunteers are hosting blood drives leading up to Valentine's Day to honor our soldiers and veterans. On Monday, February 8, Madison-area residents can participate by donating blood at a special American Red Cross Soldiers' Angels Blood Drive at East Towne Mall.

### **Soldiers' Angels Blood Drive**

Monday, February 8

Noon to 5 p.m.

Center Court, East Towne Mall

Next to Rogers & Hollands

The Soldiers' Angels program hits close to home for blood drive coordinator Penny Potter and her family. Her son is in the Army National Guard. He is currently stateside and will be at the blood drive on February 8 as one way to honor those who are serving overseas.

"The idea behind the blood drive is to honor those who have shed their blood for us," said Potter. "They give up so much for us, and I thought coordinating this blood drive was the least I could do to support and honor them."

Soldiers' Angels volunteers will also have information for those interested in participating in the Adopt-a-Soldier program. Volunteers send letters and care packages to a soldier overseas. Currently, there are 1,600 soldiers signed up, waiting to be adopted.

For more than 50 years, the Red Cross has been an innovator and a leader in transfusion medicine and research. Started as a relief effort to provide lifesaving plasma and blood for soldiers during World War II, the Red Cross Blood Services has grown – collecting and distributing nearly half of the nation's blood supply. The Red Cross supplies blood to many Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospitals where veterans receive blood transfusions for cancer treatment, cardiac surgery and elective surgery.

### **How to Donate Blood**

Simply call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or visit [givebloodgivelife.org](http://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. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

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### **About Soldiers' Angels**

Soldiers' Angels is a volunteer-led 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing aid and comfort to the men and women of the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and their families. Founded by the mother of two American soldiers, we are an international, volunteer-led organization supporting America's men and women in uniform. With over 30 different teams and projects, our nearly 200,000 volunteers assist veterans, wounded and deployed personnel and their families in a variety of unique and effective ways.

### **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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