

# News Release



**American  
Red Cross**

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[givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org)

## **Answer the call, give blood on Patriot's Day**

*Blood drives pay tribute to those who defend freedom and safety*

**OMAHA**, Neb. (September 1, 2009) – The American Red Cross, Omaha Fire and Rescue Department, Omaha Police Department and the Big O 101.9 are uniting to help our neighbors, community and country and pay tribute to those who defend our freedom and safety during the 8th Annual Patriot's Day blood drives on September 11, 2009.

“On this first National Day of Service and Remembrance, donating blood is a simple – but needed – way to make a lifesaving difference in our community,” said Tricia Rubens, CEO of the local Red Cross Blood Services region. “The support of the community is necessary to ensure that blood is available when and where it is needed the most.”

### **Upcoming Patriot Day Blood Donation Opportunities**

- **Friday, September 11, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
**Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2912 S. 80<sup>th</sup> Ave., Omaha**  
**Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit [givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org) to make an appointment**
- **Friday, September 11, 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
**American Red Cross Loess Hills Blood Donation Center, 705 N. 16<sup>th</sup> St., Council Bluffs**  
**Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit [givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org) to make an appointment**

All presenting donors at the drives will receive a free T-shirt and refreshments and be entered in raffles for tickets to local events and gift certificates to local venues.

September is National Preparedness Month -- Get Red Cross Ready. Take a class or donate your time, blood or money. Donate blood by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit [givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org). Enroll in a class, volunteer or make a financial contribution by visiting [www.redcrossomaha.org](http://www.redcrossomaha.org) or call 402-343-7700. National Preparedness Month is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

The Metro Omaha Community Emergency Response Team will also be at the Heartland Chapter during the blood drive educating people about disaster preparedness and response and raffling preparedness items.

### **How to Donate Blood**

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 younger than 19 years also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

### **About the American Red Cross**

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

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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