



Answer the call, give blood on Patriot's Day

Blood drives pay tribute to those who defend freedom and safety

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (September 1, 2009) – The American Red Cross, the Mid-Plains Chapter of the American Red Cross and Q Country 107.3 are uniting to help our neighbors, community and country and pay tribute to those who defend our freedom and safety during our Patriot's Day blood drives on Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12, 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, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
Platte River Mall, 1000 S. Dewey St.
Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit givebloodgivelife.org to make an appointment
- **Saturday, September 12, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
American Red Cross North Platte Blood Donation Center, 1111 South Cottonwood
Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit givebloodgivelife.org to make an appointment

All presenting donors at the drives will receive a free T-shirt.

Special thanks to the RSVP volunteers giving their time at the Friday blood drive; Subway, Sunmart and Roberts Dairy for providing refreshments for the Sept. 11 drive at Platte River Mall and to Platte River Mall for donating the space for the blood drive.

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. Enroll in a class, volunteer or make a financial contribution by calling 308-534-7350, ext. 200. National Preparedness Month is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

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

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.™