



Answer the call, give blood on Patriot's Day

Blood drives pay tribute to those who defend freedom and safety

KEARNEY, Neb. (September 1, 2009) – The Great Plains and Fort Kearney Chapters of the American Red Cross and Y102 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 Thursday, September 10, 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

- Blood drives on **Thursday, September 10:**
 - Hastings:** First Congregational Church, 2810 W. 7th St., Noon to 5:30 p.m.
 - Grand Island:** American Red Cross Grand Island Blood Donation Center, 404 East Third St., Noon to 6 p.m.
 - Kearney:** American Red Cross Kearney Blood Donation Center, 101 West 31st St., 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.*
- Blood drives on **Friday, September 11:**
 - Ravenna:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 324 Kufus St., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Grand Island:** American Red Cross Grand Island Blood Donation Center, 404 East Third St., 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 - Kearney:** Fort Kearney Chapter of the American Red Cross, 520 West 48th St., Noon to 6 p.m.*
- Blood drives on **Saturday, September 12:**
 - Grand Island:** American Red Cross Grand Island Blood Donation Center, 404 East Third St., 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - Kearney:** American Red Cross Kearney Blood Donation Center, 101 West 31st St., 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*

All presenting donors at the drives will receive refreshments and a free T-shirt. In Kearney, all presenting donors will receive a coupon for a free pint of custard from Culver's also.

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 visiting redcross.org or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. 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

The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give 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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