



BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM



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Post 311-16

When was the last time you felt like a hero or that you had really made a “difference”? Generous Americans have been donating blood on a regular basis but recently, our blood supply has dropped to an all time low due to the many demands being made for blood which is why your help is needed more today than ever before.

A continuous supply of blood is the backbone of our healthcare system. Blood cannot be manufactured; it is a uniquely human resource. People must rely on the generosity of other human donors to provide our blood supply. Every day, more than 1,000 donor volunteers are needed to meet patient demand.

Despite the many opportunities to give blood, and the faithful generosity of many individuals, donations continue to fall short of the demand for blood and blood products. Nationally, less than 5% of the eligible population gives blood, but approximately 90% of us will need blood during our lifetimes.

This is where each and every one of us should stop to consider that in promoting or assisting in the organization of a Blood Drive, that this might well save someone's life. That life may be a loved one, someone in the military, or someone in one of our many hospitals throughout the United States. Remember, one unit of donated blood can save three lives.

I, as your Blood Donor Director, would like to see all Posts in the state make an all out effort to meet patient demand when it comes to our blood supply. I ask that each District Commander join with their District Blood Chairperson to help the Posts of your District to set up a time and place for their Blood Drive. Working together, as a team, may very well bring about fantastic results.

Please report your Blood Donor participation on the Community Activities Report Form “online” under **A. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT...Organized & Assisted in Blood Drive. Make sure you report Hours, Dollars, Members and Number of Pints of Blood actually donated. (There is no special Blood Donor Report Form....** The Blood Donor Program was originally established to give credit for members and/or family members who **actually donated blood.** You can still receive credit for working at Blood Drives not actually “Sponsored by the V.F.W.”. Credit is limited to total hours worked and for miles traveled but you **cannot receive credit** for total pints of blood collected. Credit is only for those pints of blood that was **actually donated** by VFW members or members of their family **based upon \$69.00 per pint. If you cannot report “online” a paper Community Service Report Form will be mailed to you upon request.**

To find out where you can donate blood, visit www.givelife.org or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE, 1-800-448-3543. In the Chicagoland area, you should contact Life Source at www.lifefsource.org or call 1-877-543-3768.

Awards for this program will be for activities reported from May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012.

At the District Level, a Cash Award of \$50.00 will be presented if 100% reported by January 15th, 2012.

At the Post Level, a \$50.00 CASH AWARD will be awarded to the Post who donates the most pints of blood in one of the following membership categories:

Up to 150 members

151 to 300 members

301 and up

If you need any advice on getting a blood drive organized my assistants and I will help in any way we can. We are as near as your telephone.

ILLINOIS BLOOD CENTERS

CENTRAL ILLINOIS COMMUNITY BLOOD BANK
1134 S. 7th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
(217) 753-1530

COMMUNITY BLOOD SERVICES OF ILLINOIS
1408 W. University
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 367-2202

DANVILLE ELKS COMMUNITY BLOOD BANK
300 E. Liberty Lane
Danville, Illinois 61832
(217) 442-0789

HEARTLAND BLOOD CENTERS
1200 Highland Avenue
Aurora, Illinois 60506
(630) 892-7055

NORTHERN ILLINOIS BLOOD BANK
419 N. Sixth Street
Rockford, Illinois 61107
(815) 965-8751

AMERICAN RED CROSS
405 W. John H. Gwynn Jr. Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61605-9900
(800) 728-3543

“WE CONTINUE TO SERVE”

