

## 2008 Blood Donations Set Records

The numbers have been tabulated, and it's official—Community Blood Center donors gave more in 2008 than ever before!

"Blood donations at the blood center have been rising fairly steadily for the past few years," said Scott Caswell, Director of Donor Resource Development and Community Relations. "We're glad to see that people are helping others by giving blood. In this economy, we've had people tell us that donating blood is a way that they can give back to the community, regardless of their financial situation."

Due to the maturation of the Baby Boomer generation, the need for blood is expected to increase. According to Caswell, people who are at least 69 years old account for about 10% of the population, but receive 50% of all whole blood and red blood cell transfusions.

"We know the need for blood is growing, and it is encouraging to see people donating blood regularly," Caswell said. Whole blood can be donated every 8 weeks. Fluid volume is normally restored within 24 hours, but it can take 4-6 weeks or longer for the body to re-



plenish its red blood cells.

"Many of our donors are very dedicated, and it's exciting to see them spreading the word. We see quite a few people giving blood together—families, school groups, or colleagues who come in after work. They have fun, and we appreciate their donations," said Caswell.

This year's blood donations are not only going well, but are having a real impact, as Caswell reminds us: "Each blood donation touches a hospital patient and their family, and we are grateful for your partnership in this lifesaving mission."



### By The Numbers: Community Blood Center 2008 Statistics

- **52,288** units of red blood cells and whole blood were donated
- **9,251** therapeutic doses of platelets were donated
- **1,565** units of plasma were voluntarily donated
- The biggest donor group (by age) was 17-year olds— **2,820** gave blood in 2008
- **33%** of all donors were **45-55** years old
- **6,800+** people gave blood for the first time
- **750+** organizations, businesses, schools, and churches hosted blood drives
- **30,740** blood donations were given at blood drives
- **27,127** blood donations were given at donor centers in Appleton, Oshkosh, Little Chute, Arbor Vitae or Merrill
- By December of 2008, **16,700+** people shared their email addresses and joined our monthly donor email program

## What's Your Blood I.Q.?

1. Red blood cells, platelets and plasma are made in your:
  - A. Kidneys
  - B. Gall bladder
  - C. Bone marrow
  - D. Veins
2. The four types of human blood are A, B, AB, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. G
  - B. K
  - C. M
  - D. O
3. People can donate whole blood this often:
  - A. Every 30 days
  - B. Every 56 days
  - C. Every 75 days
  - D. Every 100 days
4. In leukemia, a blood disease, the body produces:
  - A. Too many white blood cells
  - B. Too many red blood cells
  - C. Not enough white blood cells
  - D. Not enough red blood cells
5. The average adult has this many pints of blood in their body:
  - A. 4 pints
  - B. 5 pints
  - C. 7 pints
  - D. 10 pints
6. The shelf life of most donated red blood cells is:
  - A. 42 days
  - B. 55 days
  - C. 80 days
  - D. 100 days



### Answers

1. Red blood cells, platelets and plasma are made in your *bone marrow* (C.)
2. The four blood types are A, B, AB and *O* (D.)
3. People can donate whole blood *every 56 days* (B.)
4. In leukemia, a blood disease, the body produces *too many white blood cells* (A.)
5. The average adult has *10 pints* (D.) of blood in their body.
6. The shelf life of most donated red blood cells is *42 days* (A.)

## 16-Year-Old Donors Make An Impact

In March of 2008, the age of donation was changed to allow 16-year-olds to donate blood in Wisconsin. Since that time, over 2,000 16-year-olds have signed up to give blood with the Community Blood Center.

"We are excited to offer the next generation of blood donors the chance to donate blood. By choosing to give blood, 16-year-olds are displaying not only a concern for the well-being of others, but a desire to make a positive difference in our communities," said Andrea Michaud, Director of Collections.

In 2008, over 15% of the blood donations made with the Community Blood Center were collected at school blood drives.

The blood center staff has been working with blood drive coordinators at area high schools to ensure that new blood donors are well-educated before giving blood. This includes reminders about the importance of eating a hearty meal and drinking plenty of water before giving blood.

"In addition to the number of blood donations that they contribute, high school donors are important because they are the blood donors of the future. In 20 years, we hope that today's teenagers will continue to be regular blood donors," added Michaud.

*Keep your face to the sunshine,  
and you cannot see the shadow.  
-Helen Keller*

# Summer Blood Drives

**May 2:** Eagle Nation  
(Neenah)

**June 18:** Operation Donation  
(Oshkosh)

**June 30:** Chain O' Life  
(Waupaca)

**July 6:** Summer Rocks  
(Wautoma)

**July 16:** M\*A\*S\*H  
(Appleton)

**August 4:** M\*A\*S\*H  
(Merrill)



To make a donation appointment at one of these special event blood drives, call us at (920) 738-3131 or (800) 280-4102, or go to [www.save3lives.org](http://www.save3lives.org).

The Community Blood Center is the exclusive supplier of blood for all hospitals in Lincoln, Oneida, Vilas, Forest, Iron, Outagamie, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, Waupaca, Winnebago, and Calumet counties as well as Ripon Medical Center in Fond du Lac County.

## Who Receives Your Donation? Blood Types & Transfusions

In 1900, Karl Landsteiner, an Austrian physician, discovered the human blood types A, B, and C (later called O). The fourth and rarest blood type, group AB, was discovered in 1902. Five years later, scientists realized that matching the blood types of recipients and donors resulted in more successful transfusions.

Today, every blood donation undergoes 10+ tests in our laboratory, and one of these tests determines the blood type of each blood donation. A hospital patient's blood type determines from which blood donors they can safely receive blood transfusions.

When hospital patients need a blood transfusion, tests are performed to determine their blood type. When a unit of blood has been chosen for transfusion at the hospital, additional tests are run on the selected unit of blood, to confirm that the blood transfusion will be compatible with the patient's own blood.

The chart below shows how donor and patient blood types affect blood transfusions. Anyone can receive blood from O- donors, often called "universal blood donors." People with AB+ blood can receive red blood cells from any blood type, and are known as "universal

Blood Type	% of Population	Can give red blood cells to patients with these types	Can receive red blood cells from these types of donors
O+	38%	O+, A+, B+, AB+	O+, O-
O-	7%	ALL TYPES	O-
A+	34%	A+, AB+	O+, O-, A+, A-
A-	6%	A+, A-, AB+, AB-	A-, O-
B+	9%	B+, AB+	O+, O-, B+, B-
B-	2%	B+, B-, AB+, AB-	B-, O-
AB+	3%	AB+	ALL TYPES
AB-	1%	AB+, AB-	O-, A-, B-, AB-

recipients." Conversely, type AB plasma can be given to anyone, which is why these "universal plasma donors" may be asked to donate plasma.

Because of the need to provide blood recipients with a compatible blood transfusion, hospitals keep a variety of blood types on hand at all times. Units of O- red blood cells and AB plasma are also kept for emergencies. When medical staff need to immediately transfuse a patient, the patient can safely receive blood given by these "universal donors."

## Eligibility Changes

Donation eligibility criteria for autoimmune diseases and cardiac patients has recently changed. In the past few years, other changes have made it easier for cancer survivors, people with diabetes, and those with tattoos to give blood. If you have any questions, please call us at (920)738-3131 or (800) 280-4102. All eligibility questions are treated confidentially.

## Donor Centers

4406 West Spencer Street  
Appleton, WI ★WiFi now available!

1915 East Main Street  
Little Chute, WI

Lake Aire Center  
20th Avenue & Oregon Street  
Oshkosh, WI

Good Samaritan Health Center  
601 South Center Avenue  
Merrill, WI

North Country Suites  
1575 Highway 51 North  
Arbor Vitae, WI

Please call for hours of operation or to schedule an appointment. Walk-in donors are always welcome.

(920) 738-3131 (800) 280-4102  
[www.save3lives.org](http://www.save3lives.org)

it's about

