

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BLOOD DONORS NEEDED DURING DECEMBER**

APPLETON, WI, NOV 26 – The Community Blood Center is asking people to add one more gift to their holiday list- a blood donation. By encouraging people to give blood during the last two weeks of December, the blood center is trying to alleviate an expected drop in donations at that time.

“With people doing holiday shopping and attending family celebrations, donating blood tends to become a lower priority,” said Angela Brumm, Public Relations Specialist with the Community Blood Center. “We know that this is a busy time, so we’re asking people to plan ahead and set aside one hour to give blood. These donations will help ensure that during the holidays, patients can receive the lifesaving blood transfusions that they need.”

During the final weeks of December, blood donations decline across America. Hospitals need an ample supply of blood throughout the year, and blood donations given in the last two weeks of December will ensure that the hospitals continue to receive a steady blood supply.

The Community Blood Center is based in Appleton, Wisconsin, and supplies blood to hospitals in Wisconsin and Michigan. The blood center has donor centers in Appleton, Little Chute, Oshkosh and Arbor Vitae, and is hosting blood drives throughout December. Blood donation appointments are highly recommended. People can call the Community Blood Center at (800)280-4102 for more information or to make a donation appointment.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental permission in Wisconsin), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health, and bring a photo ID. Donors are encouraged to eat a regular meal and drink plenty of fluids prior to donating.

The Community Blood Center provides blood for 18 hospitals in Wisconsin and Michigan. Since 1955, the Community Blood Center has worked with volunteer blood donors to provide a steady, reliable blood supply for hospitals. Today, the blood center remains a nonprofit organization committed to serving hospital patients.

<b>Blood Facts</b>
- The average adult has 10-12 pints of blood in their body.
- 37% of Americans can donate blood; around 10% do so each year.
- Blood donations usually drop during the summer and winter holidays.

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