

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Katie's Blood Drive Planned

Blood drive to benefit cancer patient, other hospital patients

APPLETON, SEPT 26 – Friends and family of Katie Uren are asking people to give blood at Katie's Blood Drive, on Tuesday, October 4. The blood drive will run from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Immanuel Baptist Church, at 332 S. Carpenter Ave. in Kingsford, MI. Organizers are hoping to have at least 125 people donate at the blood drive.

Uren, a 25-year-old resident of Iron Mountain, is a cancer patient diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma. She will be having an extensive 2-day surgery on Oct. 12-13 to remove a tumor in one of her bones. Uren's surgery was originally scheduled for September 6-7, but had to be postponed due to the lack of O- blood at the cancer center where she is receiving treatment.

"Katie has O- blood, and people with O- blood can only receive red blood cells from O- donors. Katie's upcoming surgery is very complex, and doctors at the cancer center in Texas want to have 50 pints of blood on hand for Katie," explained Angela Brumm, PR Specialist at the Community Blood Center. "Our goal at Katie's Blood Drive is to collect as much blood as we can, especially O- blood."

Blood given by O- donors at this blood drive will be sent to Texas for Katie, and donations of other blood types will be used to help other hospital patients. The Community Blood Center is also holding a marrow registry drive along with the blood drive.

Like many cancer patients, Uren has already received many blood transfusions. Uren estimates that she has received more than 60 units of blood since she was diagnosed with cancer.

Uren initially underwent nine months of treatments, including nine months of chemotherapy and 31 days of radiation. During that time, she received 2-4 units of blood about every 2 weeks. During the past few months of cancer treatments, Uren has been receiving transfusions every 2 weeks. Most recently, Uren received three units of blood on Sunday, September 18.

"Please give blood if you are healthy and able to donate. I've always wanted to donate blood, but have never been able to," Uren said. "Your body makes red blood cells every day. If you give blood, you can help someone or save a life- please donate!"

Brumm emphasized that due to the high turnout expected at Katie's Blood Drive, advance blood donation appointments are highly recommended. People can call the Community Blood Center at (800)280-4102 to make a donation appointment or learn more about giving blood.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental permission), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health, and bring a photo ID. On the day of the blood drive, donors are encouraged to drink plenty of fluids, eat hearty meals, and wear a short-sleeve shirt or make sure their sleeves can be easily raised above the elbow.

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. The blood center is also a donor center with the National Marrow Donor Program, facilitating transplants for patients with life-threatening diseases.

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