

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Katie's Blood Drive a Resounding Success**

**Blood drive benefits cancer patient, other hospital patients**

APPLETON, OCT 6 – Around 190 people came to Katie's Blood Drive in Kingsford on Tuesday, far surpassing goals of the blood drive organizers. Katie's Blood Drive was held in honor of Katie Uren, a 25-year-old resident of Iron Mountain.

Katie, a cancer patient diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, will be having an extensive 2-day surgery on Oct. 12-13 to remove a tumor in one of her bones. The surgery is very complex, and doctors at the cancer center in Texas want to have 50 pints of blood on hand for Katie.

"We were amazed by the community's support for Katie's Blood Drive. The turnout far exceeded our expectations, and we are grateful to everyone who came to donate blood," said Angela Brumm, Public Relations Specialist with the Community Blood Center.

Katie has O- blood, and people with O- blood can only receive red blood cells from O- donors. Around 70 units of O- blood were donated at Katie's Blood Drive on Tuesday, surpassing the goal for O- donations. The Community Blood Center will be sending 50 units of O- blood to the cancer center in Texas where Katie is being treated, and is standing by to send more blood if needed.

"It was wonderful to be at this blood drive, seeing person after person come in the door to donate blood. Some of these people knew Katie, and some of them didn't know her at all, but everyone was there for one reason- to help Katie and other hospital patients. It was so inspiring to see this depth of generosity and compassion," added Brumm.

In addition to the blood that will be sent to Texas for Katie, other units of blood donated at the blood drive will be used to help other hospital patients. There is no substitute for human blood, and over 4 million Americans receive blood transfusions each year. Cancer patients like Katie, premature babies, and trauma patients all may be helped by blood given by volunteer blood donors.

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. More information on the Community Blood Center can be found at [www.communityblood.org](http://www.communityblood.org).

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