

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER INCREASES BLOOD COLLECTION HOURS IN RHINELANDER**

ARBOR VITAE, APR 28- Due to increasing numbers of blood donors in Rhinelander, the Northwoods Community Blood Center has begun collecting blood every week at the Trig's Riverwalk Center, located at 232 S. Courtney St. in Rhinelander. Blood donations will be collected every Wednesday, from 12:00 Noon until 6:00 p.m. Previously, blood donations were collected twice each month.

In 2003, the Northwoods Community Blood Center began providing 100% of the blood used at St. Mary's Hospital, and also began collecting blood in Rhinelander during that time. In 2004, around 370 people gave blood at the Rhinelander site. Last year, over 500 people gave blood at the Trig's Center location- an increase of over 35%.

"We're pleased that so many people have become blood donors, and hope that these expanded hours make it more convenient for people to give blood," said Scott Caswell, Director of Donor Resource Development and Community Relations at the blood center. "Every day, patients in hospitals such as St. Mary's Hospital receive lifesaving transfusions, and volunteer blood donors help make this possible."

Donation appointments are recommended. People may schedule an appointment to donate at the Trig's Riverwalk Center or find a nearby blood drive by calling the blood center at (800) 280-4102, or going online to [www.save3lives.org](http://www.save3lives.org). Scheduling an appointment in advance reduces waiting time, keeping the total time required for a donation to less than an hour.

"Giving blood is a safe, simple process," Caswell explained. "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. We also encourage people to eat a regular meal and drink plenty of fluids before they give blood. If you have any questions about giving blood, please call us at (800) 280-4102."

The Northwoods Community Blood Center provides 100% of the blood used by patients in five Northwoods hospitals. The non-profit blood center is committed to providing a safe, reliable blood supply for local patients. The Northwoods Community Blood Center has donor centers in Arbor Vitae and Merrill, and holds around 20 blood drives each month. 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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