

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Hodag MASH Blood Drive Planned in Rhinelander**

### ***150 Blood Donors Expected***

ARBOR VITAE, JUNE 18- In an effort to boost summer blood donations, the first annual Hodag MASH Blood Drive will be held with the Northwoods Community Blood Center on Tuesday, July 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The blood drive will be held at Pioneer Park in Rhinelander, where there will be plenty of camouflage, tents, military vehicles, dog tags, and olive drab. This is the first Hodag MASH Blood Drive, and organizers are expecting 150 blood donors.

“The Hodag MASH Blood Drive offers an easy, fun way to give blood,” explained Jan Hadsell of the Northwoods Community Blood Center. “The entire donation process takes less than an hour, and is very fulfilling. Many people find that donating blood is an incredibly rewarding experience. When you donate, you may literally be giving someone the gift of life!”

Walk-in donors are welcome, but donation appointments are highly recommended. Appointments may be made by calling (800)280-4102 or going to [www.save3lives.org](http://www.save3lives.org).

“Collecting a steady supply of blood is important but often challenging after holidays like the Fourth of July,” said Hadsell. “Even though people may still be on vacation, hospitals continue treating those in need of medical care. Blood donors help ensure that people can receive the blood transfusions that they need.”

Volunteers from Ministry St. Mary’s Hospital will be providing a complimentary lunch over the lunch hour. Suzy Sunshine the Clown will be creating balloon animals from 12:00 Noon to 2:30 p.m., Hadsell added.

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. Donors are encouraged to eat a regular meal and drink plenty of fluids prior to donating.

The non-profit Northwoods Community Blood Center is committed to providing a steady blood supply for local hospitals, including Ministry St. Mary’s Hospital. The Northwoods Community Blood Center has a donor center in Arbor Vitae and holds around 20 blood drives each month.

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