



America's Blood Centers®
It's About *Life*.



NEWS RELEASE

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Celebrate this Valentine's Day by Donating Life

America's Blood Centers and Donate Life America Join to Encourage Life-Saving Gifts

WASHINGTON (February 14, 2010) – Every 11 minutes another name is added to the national organ transplant waiting list and every two seconds someone needs blood. Often, these two life-saving gifts are intertwined, as in Buster Foster's case, an Amarillo, Texas, liver transplant and blood transfusion recipient.

This Valentine's Day marks the second anniversary of Buster's release from the hospital after he received not one, but two liver transplants and 68 pints of blood to sustain him during treatment. He now wears a wristband that proudly says, "Life: live it then give it" in honor of his journey to recovery made possible by organ and blood donors.

In support of the countless Americans in need of organ and blood donations across the country, America's Blood Centers and Donate Life America are joining together this Valentine's Day to encourage individuals to celebrate their love by giving the gift of life. And, National Donor Day, also celebrated on February 14, provides the public the opportunity to do just that.

National Donor Day was founded in 1998 to educate the public on the importance of donating blood, organs, tissue and marrow. Building on the success of previous years, America's Blood Centers and Donate Life America are encouraging the public to take action in 2010 by not only becoming a regular blood donor, but also taking the necessary steps to register to become an organ and tissue donor.

"40,000 pints of blood are needed every day in America, many of which go to support organ transplantation," said Tom Schallert, President of America's Blood Centers. "America's Blood Centers is proud to partner with Donate Life America to celebrate National Donor Day 2010 and educate the public on the important relationship between blood and organ donation."

According to David Fleming, President and CEO of Donate Life America, "There are more than 105,000 people currently waiting for a life-saving transplant in the United States – hundreds of thousands more await cornea and tissue transplants, these people and their families make the need for an event like National Donor Day so critical."

For more information about organ, eye and tissue donation, visit www.donatelife.net. To find out more about blood donation or to find the community blood center near you, visit www.AmericasBlood.org.

About America's Blood Centers

Founded in 1962, America's Blood Centers is North America's largest network of community-based, independent blood programs. Recognized by the U.S. Congress for its critical work in patient care and disaster preparedness and response, the federation operates more than 600 blood donor centers providing nearly half of the U.S., and a quarter of the Canadian blood supply. These blood centers serve more than 180 million people and provide blood products and services to more than 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities across North America. America's Blood Centers' U.S. members are licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Canadian members are regulated by Health Canada.

About Donate Life America

Donate Life America is a not-for-profit alliance of national organizations and state teams across the United States serving as a national voice and inspiring people to save and enhance lives through organ, eye and tissue donation. It has a vision of an organ, eye or tissue transplant for everyone in need. Donate Life America manages the national brand for donation, Donate Life, and assists in mobilizing the transplant community and its many partners to ensure that each state has an effective system for allowing individuals to designate themselves as donors, and motivates the American public to commit now to donation.

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