

Rock River Valley

BLOOD CENTER

Straight From the Heart



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Platelet Donors Asked to Make Appointments to Donate

With Thanksgiving approaching, blood supplies often run short. Currently, RRVBC red blood cell supplies are doing quite well, enough so that RRVBC was able to assist Ft. Bragg in meeting some of their military blood needs this week. However, there is a great need for platelets for patients at local hospitals. Platelets are used for a variety of patients most often those undergoing cancer treatments and surgery. Platelets are special cells made in your bone marrow that help prevent bleeding. Platelets are a lifesaving transfusion to help sustain these patients as they fight their disease/condition. “The method through which we collect platelets is an automated procedure called platelet apheresis (ay-fur-ee-sis). Apheresis is a special kind of blood donation that allows a donor to give a specific blood component, in this case, platelets. The collection process does take longer than the usual whole blood donation and requires that donors have adequate platelet counts and vena structure,” said Jennifer Bowman, RRVBC. Platelets last only 5 days and are an ongoing challenge to manage. During the holidays, flu season and winter weather it becomes even more important that RRVBC not only have an adequate supply of platelets but that there is an adequate base of donors that are willing and eligible to donate platelets. RRVBC is asking those interested in donating platelets to contact the blood center to learn more. Blood type is not a factor in platelets and therefore all blood types are needed. Learn more by calling toll free 877-RRVBC-99 or on the web at rrvbc.org.

For all locations donors may call 815-965-8751 or toll free at 877-RRVBC-99

Belvidere, 1740 S. State Street: Monday and Tuesday 9:00am-5:00pm; Wednesday and Thursday 11:00am-6:00pm; Friday 8:00am-1:00pm and the second Saturday of each month 7:00-11:00am.

Perryville, 3065 N. Perryville Road, Rockford: Monday-Thursday 6:30am-7:00pm; Friday 7:00am-1:00pm and Saturday 7:00am-1:00pm.

Downtown, 419 N. Sixth Street, Rockford: Monday-Thursday 6:30am-6:00pm; Friday 6:30am-1:30pm and Saturday 7:00am-11:00am.

Freeport, 461 E. South Street: Monday and Tuesday 9:00am-6:00pm, Thursday and Friday 7:00am-2:00pm and the second Saturday of each month 7:00am-11:00am.

The Rock River Valley Blood Center serves as a centralized, community blood center and is the sole provider of blood products and services to Beloit Memorial Hospital, Edgerton Hospital and Health Services, FHN, Mercy Harvard Hospital, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, Rochelle Community Hospital, Rockford Health System, SwedishAmerican Health System and SwedishAmerican Medical Center—Belvidere. For more information or to make an appointment to donate blood, please call toll free 877-RRVBC-99 or find RRVBC on the web at www.rrvbc.org.

Contact:

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