

*Rock River Valley*

**BLOOD CENTER**

*Straight From the Heart*



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**Rock River Valley Blood Center Staff and Volunteers Help to Raise Funds and Pack Meals as part of the Million Meals for Haiti Initiative**

On Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, a group of staff and volunteers from the Rock River Valley Blood Center participated in the Million Meals for Haiti Initiative in Rockford. Deb Herzog, Darla Dover, Devyn Johnson, Lynette Vil, Amber Walker, Amy Tubbesing, Sandy Rossa, Erika Franks, Megan Herzog, Mark Hertzner, Jean-Lionel Vil, Jean-Pierre Vil, Philippe Vil, and Kathy Tubbesing filled and packed 2,000 bags of a mixture of dried vitamins, rice, protein and vegetables for the earthquake victims of Haiti at Heartland Community Church. The group also raised \$356.10 for the cause. "We had a great time singing and dancing to music as we assembled each item. This satisfying experience made us realize, we are so grateful for the selection and plentiful food in front of us, if there were more ways to help, we wouldn't hesitate. We would like to thank everyone for their contributions for this humanitarian cause," said Sandy Rossa, Accounting Assistant at RRVBC.

The group held fundraisers at RRVBC allowing staff to purchase casual day stickers and also put up donation collection boxes. "I am very happy to be able to share this with the community. The blood center is an integral part of the community, and we feel very strongly that it is part of our mission to help support staff driven volunteerism like this. Without this community, we wouldn't be able to meet the needs of patients at area hospitals we serve. We are always willing to help others, and are very appreciative that the executive leadership at RRVBC also supports and encourages this kind of activity," said Jennifer Bowman.

The Rock River Valley Blood Center serves as a centralized, community blood center and is the only 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](http://www.rrvbc.org).

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In this photo: Front Row—(L to R) Phillipe Vil, Lynette Vil, Amy Tubbesing, Sandy Rossa, Meghan Herzog Back Row—(L to R) Jean-Pierre Vil, Jean-Lionel Vil, Devyn Johnson, Darla Dover, Amber Walker, Debra Herzog, Erika Franks