

*Rock River Valley*

# BLOOD CENTER

*Straight From the Heart*



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The Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers (ICCBC) and its members including Rock River Valley Blood Center (RRVBC) recently established a first-of-its-kind state competition to honor Blood Drive Coordinators. In addition to blood collected onsite, Blood Centers rely tremendously on blood drives coordinated throughout the community by volunteers at businesses, government offices, churches, schools, etc. Governor Pat Quinn issued a proclamation naming July as “Blood Drive Coordinator Month” in Illinois. The Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers held a statewide competition this summer to honor blood drive coordinators in three categories – “Most Innovative,” “Most Dedicated” and “Best High School Drive,” based on nominations from local blood centers. The judging panel included representatives from Americas Blood Centers, the Illinois News Broadcasters Association, the Illinois Press Association, the Illinois Surgical Assistant Association and the Illinois Secretary of State’s Organ Donor Program.

The **winner** of the **Most Dedicated Blood Drive Coordinator Award** was **Wanda Marzahl of Harvard, IL**. Marzahl has organized over 90 blood drives in the past 25 years with **Rock River Valley Community Blood Center** and is responsible for the collection of over 5,000 pints of blood.

The winner of the Most Innovative Blood Drive Coordinator Award was Detective Tracy Williams of the Evanston Police Department. Marsha Zierk, an English Teacher at Burlington Central High School will be receiving the Best High School Drive Coordinator Award.

The Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers is a statewide association made up of not-for-profit blood centers whose mission is to increase awareness of the importance of volunteer blood donation through public education and advocacy. Members include the Central Illinois Community Blood Center, Community Blood Services of Illinois, Heartland Blood Centers, LifeSource, Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center and Rock River Valley Blood Center.

If you are at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in general good health, you should be eligible to donate blood. One in three people will need blood. You never know when it might be you or someone you love who will need blood.

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](http://www.rrvbc.org).

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