

Thousands answer the call, but Red Cross blood shortage continues

In appreciation, \$5 Target eGiftCard™ available for all those who come out to give

ST. PAUL, Minn. (July 25, 2017) — Thousands of people have responded to the emergency call for blood and platelet donations issued by the American Red Cross in early July, but there continues to be a critical summer blood shortage. Eligible donors of all types are urgently needed.

After issuing the emergency call, the Red Cross has experienced a 30 percent increase in blood donation appointments through mid-July. About half of the appointments were scheduled by donors using the free Blood Donor App or at redcrossblood.org. Despite this improvement, blood products are still being distributed to hospitals as fast as donations are coming in, so more donations are needed to meet patient needs and replenish the blood supply.

“The blood supply is like a cell phone battery, it constantly needs recharging,” said Sue Thesenga, Communications manager of the North Central Blood Services Region. “We sincerely appreciate those who have responded to the call to help save lives and encourage those who haven’t to consider rolling up a sleeve and give the gift of life. It only takes about an hour but can mean a lifetime for patients.”

Nearly 61,000 fewer blood donations than needed were given through the Red Cross in May and June, prompting the emergency call for donations in early July. The shortfall was the equivalent of the Red Cross not receiving any blood donations for more than four days.

How to help

To schedule an appointment to donate, use the [Blood Donor App](#), visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Donation appointments and completion of a [RapidPass](#) online health history questionnaire are encouraged to help reduce the time it takes to donate.

As a special thank you, those who come out to give blood or platelets with the Red Cross July 26 through Aug. 31 will be emailed a \$5 Target eGiftCard™.*

Who blood and platelet donations help

Blood shortages could lead to delays in patient care, something Arthur Bourget learned firsthand after being diagnosed with leukemia in July 2007. When he arrived for his second blood transfusion, he was told the blood he needed was not available. He waited eight hours for blood to arrive and to receive the transfusion he needed that day.

“One thing that I committed to my wife was that I was going to beat leukemia, no matter what, and I was going to do that,” said Bourget. “But what I wasn’t going to be able to do was survive without the blood that I needed.”

Bourget went into remission following a successful treatment plan, which included 28 blood and 34 platelet transfusions. He has been a faithful advocate for blood donations ever since.

“If it wasn’t for the generosity of volunteer blood donors, I would not be here today,” he said. “My daughter would not have a father, and my wife would not have a husband. Thank you and

please give blood. You may never know the life you have saved, but I guarantee they will never forget you.”

Upcoming blood donation opportunities July 25-Aug. 15

Blue Earth

Garden City

7/29/2017: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Blue Earth County Fair, 340 Fairgrounds St.

Mankato

7/25/2017: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mankato Clinic, 1400 Madison Ave.

7/27/2017: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., YMCA, 1401 S Riverfront Drive

7/28/2017: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Wow! Zone, 2030 Adams St.

7/31/2017: 12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church, 222 Pfau St.

8/10/2017: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., American Red Cross, 105 Homestead Drive

8/11/2017: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., American Red Cross, 105 Homestead Drive

Brown

Hanska

8/15/2017: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Community Center, 201 Broadway St.

New Ulm

7/25/2017: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., New Ulm Medical Center, 1324 5th N.

7/28/2017: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Alliance Bank, 322 N. Minnesota St.

8/11/2017: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Anytime Fitness, 512 First St. S.

Springfield

8/7/2017: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Springfield High School, 12 Burns Ave.

Carver

Chanhassen

7/28/2017: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., HealthSource Chiropractic, 470 W. 78th St.

Norwood

8/2/2017: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Central Elementary School, 655 7th St. SW

Waconia

7/28/2017: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Neubauer Chiropractic, 20 W. Main St.

Dodge

Mantorville

7/26/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., First Congregational Church, 515 Walnut St.

Fillmore

Mabel

7/26/2017: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Legion, 114 N. Main St.

Freeborn

Albert Lea

7/27/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Thorne Crest Senior Living, 1201 Garfield Ave.

7/28/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Bridge Community Church, 2016 Bridge Ave.

8/7/2017: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Hy-Vee, 2708 Bridge Ave.

8/9/2017: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sterling Drug, 410 Bridge Ave.

Hollandale

8/2/2017: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Hollandale Reformed Church, 101 Park Ave.

Goodhue

Cannon Falls

8/8/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., First English Lutheran Church, 511 Belle St. W.

Dennison

8/5/2017: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dennison Lutheran Church, 37514 3rd Ave.

Goodhue

8/9/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Community Center, 105 Broadway

Kenyon

8/14/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., St. Michaels Catholic Church, 108 Bullis St.

Red Wing

7/25/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., First Covenant Church, 2302 Twin Bluff Road

7/28/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Anytime Fitness, 124 Tyler Road S.

8/11/2017: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mayo Clinic Health System, 701 Hewitt Blvd.

8/11/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Walgreens, 3142 S. Service Drive

Welch

8/3/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Vasa Lutheran Church, 15235 Norelius Road

Le Sueur**Le Sueur**

7/28/2017: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Le Sueur Henderson High School, 821 E. Ferry St.

LeCenter

7/28/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., American Legion, 97 S. Park Ave.

Montgomery

8/10/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Tri-City United High School, 700 4th St. NW

Waterville

8/9/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 14534 MN 60

Mower**Austin**

7/25/2017: 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., St. Edwards Catholic Church, 2000 Oakland Ave. W.

8/2/2017: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Accentra Credit Union, 400 4th Ave. NE

8/4/2017: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mower County Employees, 201 1st St. NE

8/7/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., National Guard Armory, 800 21st St. NE

8/8/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., National Guard Armory, 800 21st St. NE

8/9/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., National Guard Armory, 800 21st St. NE

8/10/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 306 2nd St. NW

8/11/2017: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 306 2nd St. NW

Brownsdale

8/15/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 411 W. Main St.

Grand Meadow

8/1/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Grand Meadow Lutheran Church, 115 First St. NE

Lyle

8/3/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 103 Pershing

Nicollet**North Mankato**

7/25/2017: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., South Central College, 1920 Lee Blvd.

7/27/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Belgrade Ave United Methodist Church, 325 Sherman Ave.

8/14/2017: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Messiah Lutheran Church, 1706 Lee Blvd.

St. Peter

7/27/2017: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Scholarship America, 1 Scholarship Way
8/3/2017: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., River's Edge Hospital and Clinic, 1900 N. Sunrise Drive

Rice

Faribault

7/26/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Eagles Club, 2027 W. Grant St.
8/1/2017: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Eagles Club, 2027 W. Grant St.
8/2/2017: 12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Eagles Club, 2027 W. Grant St.
8/3/2017: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Faribault Lodge #2098 Loyal Order of Moose, 1810 NW 4th St.
8/4/2017: 4 p.m. - 10 p.m., Rice County Fair, 1814 2nd Ave. NW
8/11/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., The Crux Church, 112 Central Ave.

Lonsdale

7/26/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Legion, 115 Second Ave. NW

Northfield

7/27/2017: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Eagles Club, 304 Water St. S.
8/4/2017: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Culver's, 960 S. Highway 3
8/9/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., City Light Church, 2140 S. Highway

Scott

New Market

7/27/2017: 12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Scott County Library-Market Village, 100 J. Roberts Way

Prior Lake

7/27/2017: 12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 5634 Luther Drive SE
7/27/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, 3611 N. Berens Road NW

Savage

7/27/2017: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Glendale United Methodist Church, 13550 Glendale Road
7/31/2017: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Family Vision Clinic, 4200 W. County Road 42
8/1/2017: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Culver's, 4725 W. Highway 13

Shakopee

7/25/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., All Saints Senior Living, 1880 Independence Drive
8/8/2017: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Family Video, 1260 4th Ave. E.

Steele

Blooming Prairie

7/28/2017: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., City Center, 138 Highway S.

Medford

8/11/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Medford School, 750 2nd Ave. SE

Owatonna

7/28/2017: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Owatonna Hospital, 2250 26th St. NW

8/2/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., United Methodist Church, 815 E. University St.

Wabasha

Lake City

7/27/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 213 N. Oak St.

7/28/2017: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., United Methodist Church, 213 N. Oak St.

Mazeppa

8/15/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Community Center, 121 Maple St. NW

Wadena

Sebeka

7/25/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., United Methodist Church, 100 Jefferson Ave. S.

Verndale

8/9/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Verndale Alliance Church, 109 Brown St.

Wadena

7/27/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Maslowski Wellness & Research Center, 17 5th St. SW

Waseca

New Richland

8/9/2017: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., City Hall, 203 Broadway Ave. N.

Waseca

8/2/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Family Video, 1101 2nd St. NE

8/3/2017: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Anytime Fitness, 115 4th St. SW

8/14/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., American Legion, 700 S. State St.

Winona

Winona

8/2/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Express Suites River Port Inn, 900 Bruski Drive

8/4/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Martins Lutheran Church, 328 E. Broadway St.

8/7/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., American Legion Post #9, 302 E. Sarnia

8/8/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church, 1717 Service Drive

8/14/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, 625 E. 4th St.

What to know about giving blood

To make an appointment or more information, simply download the [American Red Cross Blood Donor App](#), visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood donors can now save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, prior to arriving at the blood drive. To get started and learn more, visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass and follow the instructions on the site.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

* Restrictions apply. Additional information and details are available at redcrossblood.org/summer. The Bullseye Design, Target and Target GiftCard are registered trademarks of Target Brands, Inc. Terms and conditions are applied to gift cards. Target is not a participating partner in or sponsor of this offer.

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