



Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter
*Serving the people of Allegan, Cass, Kalamazoo
and St. Joseph Counties*
5640 Venture Court, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 353-6180, (800) 382-6382 (269 area code only)

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

CELEBRATE SUMMER'S LAST HURRAH – DONATE BLOOD!

KALAMAZOO, MI - August 27, 2008 – It hardly seems possible but the summer is nearly over! As the three day Labor Day holiday approaches the American Red Cross urges you end the season by helping to strengthen the blood supply. The summer season has been marked by critical shortages and continues to cause concern as we head into a major travel holiday. Supplies have dropped to **low levels**, with a just over a one-day supply of all blood types and **extremely low levels of Type O**. The American Red Cross considers a three-day supply of blood safe and adequate for meeting the ongoing and emergency needs of hospital patients, with five to seven days optimal for responding to disasters.

About 279 units of O-negative blood are needed to treat patients every day in the 70 hospitals served by the Great Lakes Blood Region. Shortages of Type O can be very dangerous as Type O-negative is the type of blood transfused in the majority of emergency and trauma situations when person's blood type is not known. But **all types of blood are needed**, and the Red Cross is asking all eligible donors to **give blood in the next two weeks** to help rebuild a dangerously low supply.

Eligible donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more, and be in good general health. Listed below is the community blood drive schedule for Allegan, Cass, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph counties through September 20, 2008. The schedule is subject to change; please call 353-6180 to confirm dates and times.

Kalamazoo County

Aug. 27 **Richland Township Hall**, 7401 N. 32nd, Richland, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
Aug. 28 **American Red Cross**, 5640 Venture Court, Kalamazoo, 1:00 PM - 6:45 PM
Aug. 28 **Kalamazoo Missionary Church**, 5045 E. Michigan, Kalamazoo, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
Aug. 29 **Michigan Works**, 1601 S. Burdick, Kalamazoo, 10:30 AM - 4:15 PM
Sept. 2 **Bronson Hospital**, Gilmore Education Center Kalamazoo, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
Sept. 4 **American Red Cross**, 5640 Venture Court, Kalamazoo, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
Sept. 8 **Parkview Hills Clubhouse**, 3707 Greenleaf Circle, Kalamazoo, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
Sept. 8 **Portage Comm. Outreach Cntr.**, 325 E. Centre Ave., Portage, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM

Kalamazoo County - continued

Sept. 12 **Second Christian Reformed Church**, 3013 Nichols Road, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
Sept. 12 **United Methodist Church**, 225 Glendale, Parchment, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
Sept. 13 **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**, 1112 N. Drake Rd, 10:15 AM - 4:00 PM
Sept. 15 **Westwood United Methodist Church**, 538 Nichols Road, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
Sept. 16 **St. Barnabas Episcopal Church**, 929 E. Centre Ave., Portage, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
Sept. 18 **Western Michigan University**, Miller Auditorium, Kalamazoo, 11:00 AM - 4:45 PM
Sept. 19 **Vicksburg United Methodist Church**, 217 S. Main St., Vicksburg, 11:00 AM - 4:45 PM
Sept. 20 **Portage New Apostolic Church**, 2601 Kalarama, Portage, 10:15 AM - 4:00 PM

Cass County

Tues. Sept. 16 11:00 am – 4:45 pm **Heartland Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge**, 56271 M-51, Dowagiac

Allegan County

Tues. Sept. 9 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM **St. Margaret's Catholic School**, 736 S. Farmer St., Otsego
Tues. Sept. 16 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM **First Baptist Church of Wayland**, 3514 12th St., Wayland
Thurs. Sept. 18 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM **First Baptist Church**, 1290 32nd St. - M-40, Allegan
Fri. Sept. 19 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM **Fennville Golden Orchards**, 2464 55th, Fennville

St. Joseph County

Weds. Aug. 27 11:30 AM - 5:15 PM **Jo Co Hall** 805 Wood St., Three Rivers

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and counsels victims of disasters; provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply; teaches lifesaving skills; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization – not a government agency- and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its humanitarian mission. For more information on the Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, please visit www.greaterkzooeredcross.org.

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