



Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter
*Serving the people of Allegan, Cass, Kalamazoo
and St. Joseph Counties*
5640 Venture Court, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Critical Blood Shortage Continues

KALAMAZOO, MI, - July 28, 2008 – As the hot hazy days of August approach and summer vacations give way to thoughts of “Back to School” the American Red Cross hopes that thought also brings donors back to blood drives. **Blood shortages** are typical during the summer because people—particularly regular donors—get busy with summer vacations and activities and don’t take time to donate blood. But despite previous urgent appeals, blood levels continue to decline. **Extremely low levels of Type O**, the “universal” type are particularly concerning. The Great Lakes Blood Region provides blood products to patients in about 70 Michigan hospitals. 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. The current supply of all blood is at a nearly two-day level.

The Red Cross is asking eligible blood donors to give blood in the next two weeks. 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 for through August 29, 2008. The schedule is subject to change; please call 353-6180 to confirm dates and times.

Kalamazoo County – August 2008

July 31, 2008, **WMU**, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, 10:30 AM - 4:15 PM
August 1, 2008, **Air Zoo**, 6151 Portage Road, Portage, 10:30 AM - 4:15 PM
August 2, 2008, **Air Zoo**, 6151 Portage Road, Portage, 10:30 AM - 4:15 PM
August 4, 2008, **Bronson Hospital**, Gilmore Education Center, Kalamazoo, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
August 5, 2008, **Dana Corporation**, 6938 Elm Valley Drive, Kalamazoo, 9:00 AM - 2:45 PM
August 5, 2008, **WMU, Bernhard Center**, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, 11:00 AM - 4:45 PM
August 7, 2008, **ARC Chapter**, 5640 Venture Ct., Kalamazoo, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM **Appts: 353-6180**
August 8, 2008, **Borgess Health and Fitness**, 3025 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
August 8, 2008, **St. Michael Lutheran Church and School**, 7211 Oakland Dr., Portage, 1:00 PM - 6:45 PM
August 11, 2008, **Portage Community Outreach Center**, 325 E. Centre Ave., Portage, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
August 14, 2008, **ARC Chapter**, 5640 Venture Ct., Kalamazoo, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM **Appts: 353-6180**

August 2008 Blood Drives continued

August 18, 2008, **Portage Faith Church**, 7200 Angling Road, Portage, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
August 18, 2008, **Westwood Church of God**, 811 Gorham Lane, Kalamazoo, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
August 20, 2008, **Air Zoo**, 6151 Portage Road, Portage, 10:15 AM - 4:00 PM
August 20, 2008, **Oshtemo Township Hall**, 7275 W. Main St., Kalamazoo, 12:30 PM - 6:15 PM
August 25, 2008, **Borgess Health Alliance** 1701 Gull Road in the Lawrence Ed. Ctr., 12:00-5:45 PM
August 27, 2008, **Richland Township Hall**, 7401 North 32nd St., Richland. 12:00-5:45 PM
August 28, 2008, **ARC Chapter House**, 5640 Venture Ct. 1:00-6:45 PM **Appts: 353-6180**
August 28, 2008, **Kalamazoo Missionary Church**, 5045 E. Michigan, Comstock 12:00-5:45 PM
August 29, 2008, **Michigan Works**, 1601 S. Burdick 10:30 AM -4:15 PM

Allegan County – August 2008

August 12, 2008, **Douglas Community Church**, 6780 Wiley Road, Douglas, 12:00 - 5:45 PM
August 14, 2008, **Hamilton Reformed Church**, 3554 M-40, Hamilton, 12:00 - 5:45 PM
August 15, 2008, **Allegan General Hospital**, 555 Linn St., Allegan, 11:30 AM - 5:15 PM
August 15, 2008, **Open Door Reformed Church**, 1683 142nd Ave., Dorr, 12:00 - 5:45 PM
August 21, 2008, **Plainwell Community Center**, 798 E. Bridge St., Plainwell 12:00 – 5:45 PM
August 30, 2008, **Sandy Pines**, 2745 136th Ave., Hopkins 10:00 AM – 2:45 PM

Cass County – August 2008

August 22, 2008, **Calvary Bible Church**, 27032 Marcellus Highway, Dowagiac, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM

St. Joseph County – August 2008

July 31, 2008, **Riverview Manor**, 55378 Wilbur Road, Three Rivers, 11:30 AM - 4:15 PM
August 1, 2008, **United Methodist Church**, 320 W. Main, Mendon, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
August 5, 2008, **Firm Foundation Church**, 651 E. Main, Centreville, 12:00 PM - 5:45 PM
August 11, 2008, **Sturgis Wesleyan Church**, 907 North Nottawa, Sturgis, 11:00 AM - 4:45 PM
August 16, 2008, **St. Joseph Catholic Church**, 16603 US-12 E., White Pigeon, 10:00 AM - 3:45 PM
August 26, 2008, **Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl.**, 1365 S. Washington, Constantine, 12:00 – 5:45 PM
August 27, 2008, **JoCo Center**, 805 Wood St., Three Rivers, 11:30 AM – 5:15 PM

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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