

The Blood Center of Iowa *Fact Sheet*

Providing Blood and Blood Products to Iowa Hospitals

The Blood Center of Iowa is an independent, nonprofit, federally-licensed organization providing blood and blood products to 46 hospitals in 44 counties across Iowa. For more than 45 years, The Blood Center has relied on charitable community members to donate blood to keep the local blood supply stable.

The Need for Blood is Ongoing

More than 2,000 units of blood are needed each week to maintain an adequate blood supply in our community and to meet rising transfusion demands across the country. New, first time donors, as well as established donors, are needed to expand and sustain the donor base.

Blood Donation Matters

Blood donation matters everyday for cancer patients undergoing treatment, for accident and trauma patients and for individuals being treated for various blood disorders. In fact, nine out of ten people who live to age 70 will use blood during their lifetime.

Blood Donors Save Lives

Every two seconds, someone, somewhere needs blood and the rarest type is the one not on the shelf when a patient needs it. One unit of donated blood can help save the lives of up to three different hospital patients.

Maintaining a Safe Blood Supply

More than 100,000 units of blood are collected and tested by The Blood Center of Iowa each year. Testing is performed in The Blood Center's state-of-the-art laboratory to make sure the blood is safe to transfuse to hospital patients. Each unit of blood is subject to fourteen different tests.

Healthy, Honest and Responsible Volunteer Donors

The Blood Center of Iowa accepts only voluntary blood donations. It has been proven that blood, voluntarily donated, is much safer than a paid blood donation. A volunteer donor base is the most important and significant factor in providing a safe blood supply.

General Donation Requirements

Eligible blood donors must be at least 16 years old (16 and 17 year old donors must have a signed parental/guardian permission form). Donors must also weigh at least 120 pounds and should be in general good health.

Where to Donate

The Blood Center of Iowa holds more than 1,800 mobile blood drives each year. These drives take place at businesses, churches, high schools and colleges in communities throughout the state. The Blood Center also maintains seven donor centers located in Ames, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Marshalltown, Mason City, Waterloo and West Des Moines.

For more information:

Contact The Blood Center of Iowa at 800.287.4903 or visit www.bloodcenterofiowa.org.

