



Give the Gift of Life

A message from the American Red Cross and your Local Knights of Columbus Council On Why Give Blood, the Gift of Life

Why is it important to donate?

Did you know that every 2 seconds someone needs blood? And only 37% of the population is eligible and **only 5% actually donate**. Also by age 72, **98% of us will need a transfusion**, we don't know when or where. Most people don't donate because they have never been asked or invited. I am personally asking you to donate and support your local hospitals.

Did you know that **cancer patients are the # 1 user of blood products**? Unfortunately, we all know someone that has or has had cancer. They can use between 10 and 20 units of blood and 10-50 units of blood platelets per treatment. Cancer is the number one use for platelets, and cancer treatments may also lead to need for blood transfusions. Surgery to treat cancer is often a major operation and blood loss may require a blood transfusion

The blood that we collect from your blood drive will be taken to our St Louis National testing lab where it is tested and separated into red blood cells which is used for accident victims. **On average an accident in St Louis requires anywhere from 10-40 units of blood**. It is also separated into platelets for cancer patients and plasma for burn victims.

Blood is medicine; it cannot be made or bought at Wal-Mart it has to be given through the gift of life. One donor can save up to three lives: a cancer patient, an accident victim, and a burn victim. Did you know if every donor donated one more time a year than they normally do, we would never have a limited amount of blood. **Please donate.**

Requirements

- 16 years of age with parental consent
- Weight 110 pounds
- Photo ID

People with diabetes CAN donate as long as they regulate their diabetes with medication including insulin

- People on blood pressure medication CAN donate
- People on blood thinners CAN NOT donate
- If you are cancer free for 1 year you CAN donate

Travel

If you have traveled in the last year to places like Cancun or Jamaica you CAN donate- if you went to more rural places like Dominican Republic you must wait one year-due to risk of Malaria

If you spent more than 6 months in the UK, England, Germany between the years of 1980 and 1996 you can Not donate due to Mad Cow.

Tattoos

If you got a tattoo in Illinois you must wait one year any other state is okay