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Give One Last Gift This Christmas Season!

DECEMBER 04TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Give One Last Gift This Christmas Season!

Dexter, Missouri- "He's making his list and checking it twice...." begins the song "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" , and if *your* Christmas list doesn't include an entry for "donate blood" then you need to add it now.

The holiday season is here, and with it comes the exchange of gifts among family and friends. But many hospital patients and accident victims have a gift on their wish list this year that only generous hearts can give: a blood donation.

During the hustle and bustle of the holidays, many forget that there is always an ongoing need for blood. A blood donation can truly be the most meaningful gift of the season.

As many as 44,000 blood donations are needed every day across the country to meet the needs of patients. Make an appointment to donate by visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Give one last gift this Christmas season.....give blood!

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in our area include:

Stoddard County

December 27 from 12-5 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 102 E. Castor in Dexter

Butler County

December 21 from 1-7 p.m. at Greater Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce, 111 W. Pine in Poplar Bluff

December 27 from 12-5 p.m. at Black River Medical Center, 217 Physicians Park Drive in Poplar Bluff

Dunklin County

December 17 from 1-5 p.m. at Holcomb Elementary School, 102 Cherry St. in Holcomb

December 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Twin Rivers Regional Medical Center, 1301 First St. in Kennett

Scott County

December 19 from 1-5 p.m. at Missouri Delta Medical Center, 1008 N. Main in Sikeston

December 22 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at VFW Hall, 217 S. Frisco in Chaffee

December 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 604 Sycamore St. in Scott City

December 26 from 3-6 p.m. at YMCA, 511 Taylor Street in Sikeston

December 28 from 2-7 p.m. at Sikeston Factory Outlet Stores, 100 Outlet Drive in Sikeston

You've been given plenty of notice-so pick a date that works for you and donate! You never know when you or a friend or family member may be on the receiving end of a blood donation!

If you have questions about the process of being a blood donor, simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. 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 (16 with parental consent in some states), 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.

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 join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.

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