



Upcoming Opportunities for NIU Students to Donate Blood to the American Red Cross

DeKalb, IL. (October 22, 2010) – Every day, patients across the nation rely on blood donated through the American Red Cross. Nearly five million people need blood transfusions each year. Generous blood donors in DeKalb can help the Red Cross meet patient needs by giving blood on October 29, 2010 at NIU's Lincoln Hall in the Lincoln Commons hosted by the Health House Ambassadors.

“Accident victims can require up to 100 pints of blood, but they aren't the only people who rely on blood transfusions,” said Michelle Emmett, Executive Director of the DeKalb County American Red Cross. “The blood you donate through the Red Cross can also help cancer patients, organ transplant recipients, premature babies, and many others.”

American Red Cross blood drives supply to Hospitals in the Chicago land area including Children's Memorial, State VA hospitals, and the military. Since red blood cells have a shelf life of only 42 days, it is vital for eligible individuals to give blood regularly. With the holidays coming up; consider donating and giving the gift of life.

Upcoming Blood Donation Opportunities

- NIU Lincoln Hall in the Lincoln Commons blood drive on 10-29-10 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- NIU American Red Cross Club blood drive at the Holmes Student Center in the Diversions Lounge on 11-15-10 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- NIU Health Services blood drive on 11-30-10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

How to Donate Blood

Simply call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543) 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 permission 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.

About the American Red Cross

Governed by volunteers and supported by giving individuals and communities, the American Red Cross is the single largest supplier of blood products to hospitals throughout the United States and the only NOT-FOR-PROFIT blood collection agency in DeKalb County. While local hospital needs are always met first, the Red Cross also helps ensure no patient goes without blood no matter where or when they need it. In addition to providing nearly half of the nation's blood supply, the Red Cross provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.

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