

## Local Schools



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# Blood Drive at Bloomfield High School

APRIL 19TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Blood Drive at Bloomfield High School

**Bloomfield, Missouri** - Girl Scout Troop 70668 host a blood drive Saturday, April 23rd from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Bloomfield R-14 Library located at 301 West St. in Bloomfield, Missouri.

The American Red Cross has an emergency need for blood and platelet donors. Severe winter weather since Jan. 1 has forced the cancellation of more than 300 blood drives across 20 states, resulting in more than 9,500 donations uncollected, further depleting an already low winter supply. Blood donation appointments can be quickly and easily scheduled by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

In the Missouri-Illinois Red Cross Blood Services Region, serving parts of Missouri, Illinois and Kansas, 10 blood drives were canceled since Jan. 19, causing nearly 300 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected.

“Blood products are being delivered to hospitals as quickly as donations are coming in,” said Todd Wagner, donor recruitment director for the Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region. “Eligible donors are urged to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now and help ensure blood products are available for patients.”

Because of generous donors, the Red Cross is able to provide blood products to patients like 2-year-old Charlie Stephens. Charlie has received both blood and platelets during treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Her mother, Michelle Stephens, donates

blood regularly. “I want to help supply blood for someone else, because others have provided for my family,” she said.

The Red Cross must collect approximately 14,000 blood and platelet donations every day for the patients at about 2,600 hospitals and transfusion centers nationwide. Blood and platelets are needed to respond to patient emergencies, including accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease.

### **Platelets and type AB plasma also needed**

Platelet donors and those with type AB blood are also continually needed to help ensure patients receive the lifesaving blood products they need. Platelets – a key clotting component of blood often needed by cancer patients, surgical patients and bone marrow recipients – must be transfused within five days of donation, so donations are constantly needed. Donors with type AB blood are urged to give blood or platelets to restock the plasma supply. Type AB donors have the universal plasma type, which can be given to patients of all blood types.

Individuals who donated blood earlier this summer may be eligible to donate again and help patients like an expectant mother at a Red Cross-supported hospital who is currently receiving nearly 100 units of blood products a week until she delivers. Her need alone could add up to 1,100 units.

### **How to donate blood**

The free Blood Donor App – available in app stores by searching for American Red Cross or by texting BLOODAPP to 90999 – not only makes appointment scheduling easy, but donors can also access their digital donor card and be notified when their donation is distributed to a hospital. Donors can also visit [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) 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.

Blood donors in the Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region can now save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, prior to

arriving at the blood drive. To get started and learn more, visit [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) and follow the instructions on the site.

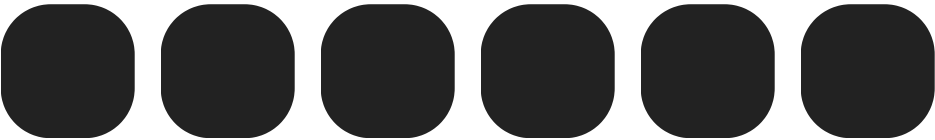
**About the American Red Cross**

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](http://redcross.org) or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

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