



Neighbors Helping Neighbors | Communities Hold Blood Drives to Help with Increased Need Amidst Coronavirus Outbreak

#Inthistogether

As communities combat the coronavirus outbreak, HUD is highlighting stories of communities coming together to help their neighbors in need.

Ahead of World Blood Donor Day, Secretary Ben Carson encourages healthy individuals to donate blood to help those in need, particularly with the increased need throughout the coronavirus outbreak. Visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) to learn more about the blood donation process or to find a blood bank near you.



Nashville, Tennessee – The Nashville Predators, the professional ice hockey team based in Tennessee, are uniting the community by hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross in multiple Middle Tennessee cities and Bowling Green, Kentucky. *“The Red Cross is adapting to meet the extraordinary challenges of this coronavirus pandemic*

and fulfill our lifesaving mission to alleviate suffering as we confront an emergency unlike any we have faced in a century,” said Garry Allison, regional donor services executive, Red Cross Tennessee Valley Blood Services Region. “The Preds are lifesaving heroes who are playing a critical role in our efforts to maintain a sufficient blood supply by providing multiple opportunities for people to give in their local community. We’re grateful for their partnership and support of area hospital patients.” As a bonus, free Predators shirts are available for donors. [Read the full story from The Nashville Parent](#)



[Photo courtesy of The Nashville Parent](#)

Sun Prairie, Wisconsin – Due to COVID-19, blood drives normally hosted by schools and business in local communities had to be postponed or cancelled. One local community in Wisconsin wanted to dive in and help. In honor of resident, Betty McMillen also known as “Betty Bingo”, they are hosting a blood drive later this month to assist with any shortages. Sadly, in March, Betty passed away after battling a bone marrow disorder in which her body couldn’t produce red blood cells. Betty’s daughter, Jamie McMillen told NBC15 the regular blood transfusions she received helped her at the end of her life. She reached a point where she was receiving transfusions every week and without them her mother would have suffered. “I don’t want that for anybody else and I want families to have the same chance, maybe they can get another ten months like I did with my mom,” she said. [Read the full story from NBC15](#)



Photo courtesy of NBC15.

Johnson City, Tennessee – Employees at the Marsh Regional Blood Center were taken aback by the uptick in blood donors in response to the need driven by COVID-19. *“At the beginning of this pandemic, when we were first concerned about a blood shortage, new and returning donors came out in force to give,”* said Don Campbell, director of Marsh Regional. *“Their selfless actions during that time undoubtedly helped prevent an unprecedented blood shortage – and now, it’s time to do it again.”* Director Campbell stresses that the facility has implemented increased safety and sanity measures to ensure that donors feel comfortable giving up and emphasizes the increased demand as the city gets back to a more normal pace of life. *“As hospitals and health systems have resumed normal operations, we have a growing need for blood, even as blood drives are cancelled.”* [Read the full story from WCYB](#)



[Photo courtesy of WCYB](#)

Hanover Township, New Jersey – For 37 years, Delbarton School in Morris Township has hosted an annual blood drive on its campus for their community. Traditionally hosted by the school's senior class before graduation, the coronavirus pandemic put everything on hold, and it appeared the students wouldn't be able to host the drive despite a national blood shortage. When Delbarton alumni, John Ferramosca Jr heard about the possible cancellation, he started contacting local hotels to see if they could host the drive. *"It is vitally important for members of our community to help each other during times of national crisis," he said. "As an alumnus, I know the power of the Delbarton community. All I needed to do was find a venue and agency for them, and they would take care of the rest."* After reaching out to several hotels throughout Morris County with no luck, he asked his father, Hanover Township Committee Deputy Mayor John Farramosca and Mayor Ronald Francioli for assistance. Within a week they were able to secure the Hanover Marriott to host the blood drive. [*Read the full story from New Jersey Hills*](#)



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Hills

Lake Tapps, Washington – When Bobbie Jo Roth and her husband learned of a nationwide blood shortage due to the coronavirus pandemic, it gave them an idea of how they could help during these unprecedented times. They decided to get on the phone to see if a mobile option existed despite the statewide stay-at-home order. Cascade Regional Blood Services responded and told them if they could fill the slots, they could arrange the mobile blood drive in their neighborhood. That's when they took their plan to Facebook and the response, they received from neighbors was massive. "I think they were a little surprised at how fast we called them back too," Roth said. "When they gave us the signup sheet within hours we were like, 'yes! we can definitely fill that!'" They had so many people sign up that they had to send two mobile units. [Read the full story from King5](#)



[Photo courtesy of King5](#)

Nationwide- During the Ramadan season, members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community are helping their neighbors in need by partnering with the Red Cross to turn the mosques under their 62 U.S. chapters into blood donation centers. *"This year, we will host a first of its kind virtual Centennial Iftar on May 9. All mosques will be virtually open for interfaith communities and guest speakers so we can reflect on the power of prayer during this pandemic,"* said Amjad Mahmood Khan, National Director of Public Affairs for Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. *"At the same time, our mosques are engines to serve America during these trying times."* [***Read more from the Hill***](#)



[Photo courtesy of the Hill](#)

Severna Park, Maryland – The Good Neighbors Group is an organization that partners with organization of all types to bring services and resources to communities in need. In Maryland, the group recently teamed up with the Anne Arundel Medical Blood Donor Center to hold a series of blood drives at the Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church. Now that the medical center is resuming elective surgeries, there is an enhanced need for donations. [*Learn more from The Severna Park Voice*](#)



[Photo courtesy of the Severna Park Voice](#)

Lexington, Kentucky – MedMadness is a month-long blood donation competition involving the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and other medical schools across Kentucky. *“MedMadness was inspired by the critical need for blood donations to continue during the COVID-19 crisis,”* said Carter Baughman, a third-year UK medical student and one of the organizers of the event. *“As medical students, we want to do anything we can to support our health care community.”* The challenge has been a huge hit since it was launched May 1st. [*Read the full story from University of Kentucky News*](#)



[Photo courtesy of UK News](#)

*To find HUD resources related to the coronavirus, visit
www.hud.gov/coronavirus.*

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