

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OVER 10,000 OUTAGAMIE COUNTY RESIDENTS DONATED BLOOD IN 2009

APPLETON, MAR 2 – Andrea Michaud, Senior Director of Donor Operations at the Community Blood Center, recently announced last year’s blood donation statistics for Outagamie County.

In 2009, over 10,000 residents of Outagamie County donated blood with the Community Blood Center. Cumulatively, these people gave over 23,000 blood donations. Many of the blood donations were collected at Community Blood Center locations in Appleton and Little Chute. The rest of the blood donations were collected at blood drives hosted by organizations, schools, churches or businesses.

“Blood transfusions help save lives every day. I applaud the residents of Outagamie County who help others by donating blood. The decision to become a volunteer blood donor is a remarkable act of selflessness,” Michaud said.

The Community Blood Center is a non-profit organization which provides 100% of the blood used by patients at 17 Wisconsin hospitals, including Appleton Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Nationally, around 37% of Americans are eligible to donate blood, but less than 10% actually do so each year. More locally, almost 6% of people in Outagamie County donated blood with the Community Blood Center last year.

“Many of today’s medical procedures depend on a supply of safe, ample blood,” Michaud explained. “Over four million people in North America received blood transfusions last year. And there is no substitute for human blood, so hospital patients are dependent upon blood given by volunteer donors.”

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental permission), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health, and bring a photo ID. Donors are encouraged to eat a regular meal and drink plenty of fluids prior to donating. People who wish to learn more about donating blood are encouraged to call the Community Blood Center at (800) 280-4102.

The non-profit Community Blood Center is committed to providing a safe, reliable blood supply for local hospital patients. The blood center is also a donor center with the Be the Match Registry, sponsored by the National Marrow Donor Program.

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