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## **THREE GENERATIONS DONATE BLOOD**

*Cook family has first-hand experience with lifesaving gift*

APPLETON, MAR 15 – Tori Cook of Neshkoro celebrated her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday with her mother and grandmother by her side- in the Community Blood Center in Appleton. Tori, mother Eileen and grandmother Barbara Bednarek of Princeton had been planning the celebration for several months, and all three women registered to donate blood that day.

“I wanted to give blood on my birthday because it’s been an inside joke in our family that I would donate blood as soon as I could. I’ve been planning this for more than five years!” explained Tori, who has seen firsthand the importance of blood donations and transfusions.

In 2002, Eileen suffered from massive hemorrhaging after the birth of her son. The doctor did everything she could, yet the bleeding did not stop. Eileen was rushed into emergency surgery and diagnosed with a bleeding condition. During a two-week period, she received over 200 units of red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

Of her daughter’s donation, Eileen says, “We know the impact that a blood donation can make. It’s very rewarding and satisfying at the same time. It’s great to be here giving blood with Tori!”

“I really looked forward to giving blood today. If someone was thinking about donating, but weren’t sure if they wanted to, I’d tell them to do it. You don’t get anything except a great feeling- but that feeling beats anything else in the word!” Tori said, after her donation was complete.

Blood donors with the Community Blood Center must be at least 17 years old, or 16 with parental permission. They must also weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health, and bring a photo ID.

The nonprofit Community Blood Center provides 100% of the blood used by patients in 17 Wisconsin hospitals. The Community Blood Center has donor centers in Appleton, Little Chute, and Oshkosh, and holds around 100 blood drives every month. 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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