

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLOOD FROM WISCONSIN DONORS GOES TO HAITI

APPLETON, MARCH 15 – Today, the Community Blood Center prepared 25 units of blood designated for people in Haiti. The box of blood products will be shipped to Florida, where it will be repacked along with blood from other American blood centers. It will then be sent to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

Since the January 12 earthquake in Haiti, blood centers around the world have coordinated efforts to provide regular shipments of blood to Haiti. Haiti's National Blood Centre building was damaged in the earthquake. The shipments of blood enable doctors to provide necessary transfusions, even while efforts continue in rebuilding homes, buildings and other infrastructure.

The Community Blood Center fulfilled a request for specific blood types, sending units of O+, O-, and A+ red blood cells. Working in coordination with AABB's Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism, the shipment of blood should arrive in Haiti on Tuesday, March 16.

"The Community Blood Center's focus is on serving our hospital partners in Wisconsin, but if we have additional blood we will share it with other blood centers or hospitals," said Alan Cable, President and CEO of the Community Blood Center. "This shipment was made possible by volunteer blood donors, who play an essential role in ensuring that hospital patients receive the blood they need. We are grateful for the generosity of our blood donors, which allows us to help save lives in Wisconsin and beyond."

The nonprofit blood center provides blood to 17 Wisconsin hospitals and collects blood in 13 northeastern and northern Wisconsin counties. The Community Blood Center currently has an ample supply of blood, which is allowing the nonprofit organization to send these units of blood to the people of Haiti.

People interested in donating blood with the Community Blood Center can learn more by calling (920) 738-3131 or (800) 280-4102, or going to www.save3lives.org. 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.

The Community Blood Center is committed to providing a safe, reliable blood supply for local patients. The blood center holds 125 blood drives every month and has donor centers in Appleton, Little Chute, Oshkosh, and Arbor Vitae. The Community Blood Center is also a donor center with the Be the Match Registry, sponsored by the National Marrow Donor Program.

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