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News Release

For Immediate Release

RED CROSS URGES DONORS TO HELP PATIENTS IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON BY GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE

WINSTON-SALEM, November 1, 2007 – As the end-of-year holiday season quickly approaches, many people prepare for vacations and spending time with loved ones. While the holidays are accompanied by joyous feasts and get-togethers, many people forget that patients in hospitals still need their help. The American Red Cross encourages everyone who can to give a gift that will make someone truly thankful. A blood or platelet donation will help someone spend time with family and friends this holiday season.

The Winston-Salem Blood Center is located beside the Nwnc Chapter at 650 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem and is closed on Saturday. **The hours for the center are:**

Monday 11:30pm to 6:00pm

Tuesday 11:30pm to 6:00pm

Wednesday 7:30am to 1:00pm

Thursday 11:30pm to 6:00pm

Friday 7:30am to 1:00pm

Sunday 10:30am to 3:00pm

“Thanksgiving is time for family togetherness and being grateful for the things you have. Unfortunately, some people can’t be with their families because they are in hospitals in need of a blood or platelet transfusion just to stay alive,” said Melanie Myers, coordinator of the Winston-Salem Blood Center. “Many people forget, in the excitement of the holidays, that the need for blood doesn’t take a vacation.”

During the month of November, the American Red Cross is offering blood and platelet donors

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**American Red Cross
November Promotion**

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the chance to win two roundtrip domestic airline tickets, compliments of Delta Air Lines. Donors who come in to give the gift of life between November 19 and November 26 will also receive an American Red Cross holiday snowflake ornament.

Blood can be safely donated every 56 days. Platelets can be given safely every two weeks, up to 24 times a year. Most healthy people age 17 and older, who weigh at least 110 pounds, are eligible to donate blood and platelets. For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

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