



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Services

CONTACT: Buffy Caudell, Director of Public Affairs
Northwest North Carolina Chapter
Direct: 336.245.5748/Mobile: 336.403.5712

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE BLOOD TYPES AT LESS THAN A DAY’S SUPPLY

Red Cross Asks Donors to Donate Now

WINSTON-SALEM, January 14, 2008 – Two weeks into the new year, the American Red Cross faces a **severe** shortage of several blood types. Locally, supplies of type O negative, B negative and A negative blood are at less than a day’s supply despite repeated calls to donors to give blood over the past month.

The Red Cross is asking blood donors to donate immediately to prevent supply levels from dropping even further in the coming days and weeks. The **Winston-Salem Blood Center**, located at **650 Coliseum Drive** is extending its hours to better accommodate donors’ schedules:

Wednesday	01-16-2008	7:30 a.m. -2 p.m.
Thursday	01-17-2008	10:30 a.m. -6 p.m.
Friday	01-18-2008	7:30 a.m. -2 p.m.
Saturday	01-19-2008	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sunday	01-20-2008	10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Monday	01-21-2008	12:30-8 p.m.
Tuesday	01-22-2008	10:30 a.m. -6 p.m.
Wednesday	01-23-2008	7:30 a.m. -2 p.m.

“It is important to note that coming off of a major holiday period, the need for blood never takes a holiday,” says Robert F. Fechner, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross Carolinas Blood Services Region. “In addition to the holiday challenges, during the winter, donations drop and the supply of blood often dips to dangerously low levels.”

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**The American Red Cross
Three Blood Types (cont.)**

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While all blood types are needed, the low supply of type O blood is of particular concern. Type O is the most commonly used blood type. O negative blood can be used for all patients, but it is often essential to the treatment of trauma patients, newborns and women who are pregnant.

Blood drives are scheduled at various times and locations across the area. Donors are asked to visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543). The Carolinas Blood Services Region needs 1,600 blood donations a day in order to adequately supply the 103 hospitals it serves. Donors must be age 17 or older and weigh at least 110 pounds.

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