

Rock River Valley

BLOOD CENTER

Straight From the Heart



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rock River Valley Blood Center's Marrow Donor Program Announces Accomplishments,
locally and nationally**

This week the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) celebrated its 35,000th transplant, hitting a new milestone in the organization's 21-year history. NMDP celebrated 30,000 transplants just 13 months ago, making the last year the most successful in NMDP's history.

As an NMDP Center, the Rock River Valley Blood Center (RRVBC) established its donor program in 1990 and proudly serves as both a Donor Center and Apheresis Center. RRVBC is responsible for serving communities in Northern IL, Southern WI and beyond, reaching out to provide education, support, donor drives, registration, search activities, follow-up and collection/transport of products related to peripheral blood stem cell/marrow cells. RRVBC's Marrow Program primary service area falls within a 150 mile radius of Rockford thus allowing an optimum level of service to potential volunteer donors in the community from the time of recruitment throughout subsequent donor management and collection activities.

RRVBC has seen amazing growth locally, as well. In 2004, RRVBC expanded its NMDP staff and pledged to increase the number of local registrants. Between 2004 and 2008 RRVBC's local recruitment efforts resulted in 5,367 persons joining the NMDP registry. That is a 117% increase in less than four years. In addition, RRVBC is averaging 99 patient searches for peripheral blood stem cell/marrow cell matches annually, a 65% increase since 2004. RRVBC helped to coordinate 9 peripheral blood stem cell/marrow cell collections for patients in need in 2008.

"On any given day, more than 6,000 people are searching for a life-saving donor. These patients have leukemia, lymphoma and other life-threatening diseases that can be treated by a marrow cell transplant, but only if there is a match for them. The sad fact is, today, only 2 out of every 10 patients will receive the transplant that could save their lives. We need to get many more people on our marrow registry so that these patients have a chance to survive their disease. Community help is critical to the patients we serve, in order to get on our registry, a person fills out a registration and consent form and then swabs the inside of their cheeks. It is so easy," said Julie Tilbury, RN, Marrow Donor Program Coordinator at RRVBC.

The Rock River Valley Blood Center serves as a centralized, community blood center and is the sole provider of blood products and services to Beloit Memorial Hospital, Edgerton Hospital and Health Services, Freeport Health Network, Mercy Harvard Hospital, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, Rochelle Community Hospital, Rockford Health System and SwedishAmerican Health System.

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Hours and Locations

Downtown Donor Center and Headquarters
419 North Sixth Street, Rockford, IL 61107
Mon-Thu 6:30am-6:00pm
Fri 6:30am-1:30pm
Sat 7:00am-11:00am

Belvidere Donor Center
1740 South State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008
Mon-Thu 11:30am-6:30pm
Fri 6:30am-1:30pm
Second Saturday of each month 7:00am-11:00am

Freeport Donor Center
461 East South Street, Freeport, IL 61032
Mon-Tue 9:00am-6:00pm
Thu-Fri 7:00am-2:00pm
Second Saturday of each month 7:00am-11:00am

Perryville Donor Center
3065 North Perryville Road, Rockford, IL 61114
Mon-Thu 6:00am-7:00pm
Fri 7:00am-3:00pm
Sat 7:00am-1:00pm

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