



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Williamson Medical Center employees boost blood supply

FRANKLIN, TENN. Williamson Medical Center employees stepped up at a time when the nation's blood supply has dropped to a critically low level due to the mounting effects of severe winter weather and cancellation of many blood drives.

More than 70 Williamson Medical Center employees and a handful of community members presented to donate blood last Friday, Jan. 21—a wintry day that saw the cancellation of six other drives in the Tennessee Valley Region. WMC's drive resulted in 55 productive units with the potential to save 165 lives.

Williamson Medical Center consistently produces a high blood drive turnout, says Daniel Stockton, American Red Cross donor recruitment representative. "This time they hit the ball out of the park, achieving 114 percent of goal at a time when the need is critical."

Williamson Medical Center CEO Dennis Miller, who donated at the drive, says he is proud of hospital employees for stepping up during a time when the need is so great.

"At a hospital, we see every day how blood products can make a difference in the lives of so many," Miller says. "I try to donate as often as possible, and I encourage others to do the same."

The American Red Cross today issued a national appeal for blood, as severe winter weather throughout much of the eastern half of the United States in recent weeks has caused the cancellation of more than 14,000 blood and platelet donations.

The Red Cross says during the past 10 years it has not seen its blood supply drop this dramatically at this time of year. The organization hopes to avoid a situation in which there may not be enough blood available to continue to meet all routine hospital needs while at the same time respond to emergency traumas requiring large quantities of blood.

Eligible donors can make an appointment to donate blood by calling 1-800-RED CROSS

(1-800-733-2767) or by visiting redcrossblood.org. Donations will help replenish the Red Cross blood supply to ensure that blood products are readily available for patients with serious medical needs.

Williamson Medical Center, a 185-bed hospital fully accredited by The Joint Commission, provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care including emergency services, with credentialed physicians in 53 specialties and sub-specialties. The community-focused hospital offers a wide range of wellness services, screenings and classes. For more information about Williamson Medical Center, visit www.williamsonmedicalcenter.org.

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