



News Release

Western Lake Erie Blood Services Region

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givebloodtoday.org

The American Red Cross

Battle of the Badges Kicks off December 15th!

Firefighters and police officers often are close to the need for blood, responding to emergency situations throughout the year. Starting December 15th, officers will join forces at the American Red Cross, Donor Center, in Toledo, to kick off their annual Battle of the Badges campaign with a press conference at 8:00am. The 15th annual rivalry will begin with a radio remote by Star 105.5. Co-chairs Police Chief Mike Navarre, Chief of Fire Michael Wolever and special guest Aaron and Jackie Frisch will be attending the event in support of the campaign.

Battle of the Badges is held each year to help the Red Cross maintain blood levels during the holiday season. It is a friendly competition between fire and police officers to see who can bring in the most blood donations and votes. In the end, hospital patients in need are the real winners.

The Battle continues at the Donor Center through January 4, 2008, and donors can cast their ballot to show support for the police or fire departments. During the campaign, anyone who presents to donate blood will receive a special commemorative t-shirt along with a coupon for a free breakfast at Uncle John's Pancake House, located at the corner of Central and Secor in Toledo.

"Donating blood at a battle drive is a great way for everyone in the community to show support for local heroes. Once again we are very excited about supporting the Red Cross during this critical time of year," says Toledo Police Chief Navarre.

The Donor Center Hours:

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|------------------------|----------|
| Monday, December 15 | 7am-7pm |
| Tuesday, December 16 | 7am-7pm |
| Wednesday, December 17 | 7am-7pm |
| Thursday, December 18 | 7am-7pm |
| Friday, December 19 | 7am-4pm |
| Saturday, December 20 | 7am-2pm |
| Sunday, December 21 | 10am-2pm |

The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood.™

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How to Donate Blood

To schedule a blood donation appointment please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or visit givebloodtoday.org for more information. If you are at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in good general health, you may be eligible to donate blood. All donors need to present positive identification.

About the American Red Cross

The Western Lake Erie Region serves 11 counties, and needs to collect about 300 units of blood a day to meet patient need in 23 local hospitals. In addition to providing blood to our community, the American Red Cross also provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.

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