



American Red Cross
Michigan Blood Services
www.redcrossmichigan.org

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NEWS RELEASE

Rose Township Resident Proud American Red Cross Blood Donor

William Burnham presented with 29-gallon pin

Rose City, MI – September 22 - William Burnham first began donating blood in 1957 and more than 50 years and 29 gallons of blood later, he can't remember a time when he and his family didn't donate blood.

"I began donating blood because that is just what my family did," Burnham said. "My mother, who was a tiny little thing, would eat a lot of bananas so she could donate."

Burnham's mother was his role model and was passionate in helping others.

"She was so involved with many charities to help those less fortunate," Burnham said. A tradition Burnham has proven to continue.

Burnham, a retired GM Manager, first began donating blood to help family friends who were battling leukemia. Throughout the years, he continued to make sure he found the time to donate blood.

"I was very persistent and adamant that my employees donate blood too," Burnham said. "I am very dedicated to blood donation, I really believe in it."

Every time Burnham donates blood, he does so because his donation can help save up to three lives. But most important, he does it to honor his wife.

"My wife, Josie has battled cancer twice and is now cancer free," Burnham said. "I wish more people would donate, it just makes sense."

How to Donate Blood

To schedule an appointment to donate please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or visit www.redcrossmichigan.org for more information. If you are at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds (based on height) 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 Great Lakes Region serves 65 counties, and needs to collect about 700 units of blood a day to meet patient needs in about 70 hospitals in the region. 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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