



American Red Cross
Michigan Blood Services
www.redcrossmichigan.org

Media Contacts:
Outstate Michigan:
Monica Stoneking
Phone: 517-318-7447
Cell: 517-896-4929

NEWS RELEASE

East Tawas Resident Provides More than 50 Years Service to the American Red Cross

East Tawas, MI – September 16 - Bunny Reder has been volunteering her time and blood with the American Red Cross since its first blood drive in Tawas at the Christ Episcopal Church in the 1950s.

On Monday, September 14, more than 80 units of blood were collected at Reder's American Red Cross Drive at the Tawas Knights of Columbus Hall. She's been coordinating blood drives for so long, it is hard to know exactly how many units of blood she has helped collect and how many lives she has helped save.

"People don't think donating blood is important until they see a pint of blood hanging there at the side of a hospital bed, saving the life of someone in need," Reder said.

Reder, a retired medical LPN, worked for Tawas Hospital for more than 40 years and knows how important donating blood is from both a personal and professional standpoint.

"About 25 years ago, my son needed heart surgery and received 20 units of blood," Reder said.

When asked why she continues to volunteer her time with the American Red Cross, Reder's answer is simple.

"I have a lot of good experiences in helping people. The American Red Cross helps people in need, helps save lives," Reder said.

Last year in Iosco County, the American Red Cross helped 24 military families in need. In addition, the American Red Cross provided 789 Iosco County residents CPR and First Aid training. The American Red Cross collected 1,343 units of blood in 2008 and Iosco County residents, like Bunny Reder, hope to increase that number this year.

"One unit of blood can help three people," Reder said. "There is always a need for blood and the American Red Cross is here to make sure the people who need blood, get it."

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 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.

##

06/09AP603