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Press Release

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New Monthly Blood Drive Provides Convenient Location to Donate Blood *Hosted by The Hospital of Central Connecticut, New Britain General campus*

The American Red Cross in partnership with The Hospital of Central Connecticut today announced a new regularly scheduled community blood drive to be held one Saturday each month at the hospital's New Britain General campus. **The first community blood drive will be held during Red Cross Month on Saturday, March 6th from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Hospital of Central Connecticut, New Britain General campus, in Lecture Rooms 1 and 2.**

"We are grateful for the commitment of The Hospital of Central Connecticut to provide a convenient opportunity and central location each month for eligible donors in New Britain and surrounding communities to donate blood," stated Paul Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer, American Red Cross – Connecticut Blood Services Region. "We salute the Hospital and all of our blood donors and sponsors during Red Cross Month which is dedicated to honoring those who help fulfill the American Red Cross mission of helping to save lives every day."

The announcement was celebrated at a blood drive scheduled for employees at the hospital's New Britain General campus on Monday, March 1st kicking off Red Cross Month. Attending were the Honorable Timothy Stewart, Mayor of the City of New Britain, who donated blood and encouraged others in the community to do the same. "I am pleased to roll up my sleeve and donate blood at The Hospital of Central Connecticut New Britain General campus. New Britain and surrounding communities are truly fortunate to have a leader in health care that continually looks for ways to improve services for the community such as these Saturday blood drives," stated Mayor Stewart. "I hope all eligible donors in the New Britain area will help patients across Connecticut by donating blood."

Steven Hanks, M.D., senior vice president of Medical Affairs, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, also donated blood. "Having regular blood drives at our New Britain General campus that are open to the community will further support the Red Cross' aim of ensuring availability of blood and blood products throughout the state, including to The Hospital of Central Connecticut," stated Hanks, noting that The Hospital of Central Connecticut receives between 500 to 700 blood or blood products every month.

David Krugman, M.D., Emeritus, of The Hospital of Central Connecticut and Rosemary Wall, Board of Directors Chair, American Red Cross – Connecticut Blood Services Region also attended to celebrate the announcement. For information on the new community blood drives in New Britain and to make an appointment to donate blood, please call **1-800-RED-CROSS** or visit **redcrossblood.org**.

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