

Unless disaster strikes, you probably haven't thought much about giving blood. Whether those disasters are widespread, such as a hurricane or earthquake, or more personal — an accident, medical treatment or surgery — giving blood can literally be a life saver.

The Indiana Blood Center is marking 60 years in business and of being wholly dependent on a volunteer base. Muncie is one of nine donor centers; the West McGalliard Road location is staffed by 28 people.

Overall, Indiana Blood Center has annual revenue of \$69 million and expenses of \$68 million. That other \$1 million is reinvested back into the blood center for equipment and other needs.

Thinkstock photo The blood center is a nonprofit agency that does no fundraising. Revenue comes from selling transfusion-ready blood to the 60 hospitals served in Indiana. Blood that is donated in Indiana stays in Indiana. But if national need arises, it can be sent to where it's needed.

Because it depends on volunteers, the blood center cannot do its work without your help, specifically your blood. "A reliable blood supply helps control health care costs, keeps the community healthy with healthy donors, and can screen donors to help find diseases," said Byron Buhner, CEO and president of Indiana Blood Center.

He explained the blood center serves as a steward between donors and hospitals. "We're just the middle guy."

IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital receives 7,700 blood components a year from the blood bank. More importantly, each unit of blood donated by a volunteer can potentially save three other Hoosiers, not only with the red blood cells, but with other blood components.

Volunteering to give blood is an act that saves lives, said Dr. Dan A. Waxman, chief medical officer and executive vice president of the blood center. He said 28 percent of the blood donors come from the ranks of high school and college students. "That's incredible," he said.

Waxman said a person cannot catch any disease by donating blood, which is screened for hepatitis, HIV, syphilis and West Nile. People who have diabetes or high blood pressure can donate blood, but some people who take blood thinners might not be able to donate.

Coverage in this newspaper of nonprofit activities and groups often includes a plea for funds or donations. Nothing wrong with that.

But donating blood is one way a person who cannot spare any cash but still wants to help his or her community can make a difference in a huge way. All it takes is rolling up your sleeve and about an hour's worth of time.

You'll even get some cookies and juice. More importantly, you'll make the community a better place to live, and you just might save a life to boot.

## TOP 12 INDIANA BLOOD CENTER PARTNERS IN DELAWARE COUNTY

JULY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012

Organization	Presents	Donations
Angels for Life, Ball State	1,172	938
IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital	242	185
Indiana Academy	203	158
Southside High School	203	145
Muncie Area Career Center	189	144
Maxon	133	127
Mursix Corp.	141	115
Yorktown High School	128	113
First Merchants Bank	95	84
Sallie Mae	115	83
Cowan High School	96	73
Wapahani High School	78	65

<sup>&</sup>quot;Presents" are people who visit a blood drive to become a donor.

Source: Indiana Blood Center