



For Immediate Release

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**AMERICOLLECT HELPS EMPLOYEES OF MANITOWOC, SHEBOYGAN AND
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE**

Americollect to support the community by donating blood on behalf of The Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin.

Americollect is supporting the health of the employees and community by donating blood on behalf of The Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin. Organizers hope to include all Americollect employees in the collection of blood and to expand the initiative of a healthy work environment and community to friends and family. The theme for Americollect is “You can’t get blood from a turnip, but you can get blood from a collector” which is why The Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin fits the theme. The blood that is collected through The Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin supports the patients and families of Holy Family Hospital in Manitowoc, Aurora in Two Rivers, St. Nicholas in Sheboygan and other hospitals in southeastern Wisconsin.

On February 3rd, 2005 Jennifer Popek, supervisor for the Manitowoc Blood Center, was invited to talk with the employees of Americollect. The topic was about blood donation and how donating blood is healthy for you and healthy for the community. Americollect is a Manitowoc based debt collection agency. “I had a chance to talk with people concerned about the health of their work environment and their community. We talked about the importance of donating blood, the two types of automation available to Americollect staff, platelets and dual red cells, and the steps to become a blood donor.” Staff from Americollect are challenged by Kenlyn Gretz and Julie Bruckschen to come into the Manitowoc Blood Center at least three times this year. Julie has made up cards for each employee and with those cards employees are marked off each time they donate blood. At the end of the year Americollect will place names of those who have demonstrated health in their work environment and in their community in a raffle to win a prize. Americollect has also offered a donation to The Manitowoc Blood Center for their dedication to Americollect’s health challenge.

Along with helping local hospitals Americollect’s blood donations will also help The Blood Center serve 54 hospitals in 26 Wisconsin counties, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Washington, Sheboygan and Manitowoc counties. This will also help serve hospitals in Adams, Brown,

Clark, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Portage, Price, Sauk, LaCrosse, Trempealeau, Monroe, Vernon, Richland, Juneau, Winnebago and Wood counties.

The local need for blood is up 7% this year and is projected to continue to rise. The staff at Americollect is doing more than just keeping their work environment healthy, they are keeping this community along with the state of Wisconsin healthy. They are doing more good than they know.

Almost anyone can donate blood. It takes only an hour and with one donation, you can save up to three lives. Donating blood is a simple act that will save a life. To make an appointment to donate blood at the Manitowoc donor site, call (920) 684-1880 or call 1-800-BE-A-HERO.

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