

 **New York** Blood Center

& PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION No. 1

BLOOD DRIVE

**AT THE TRAINING CENTER BEFORE THE
OCTOBER UNION MEETING AND BENEFIT
FAIR ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009.**

(STARTING AT 1:30 PM)

The **New York Blood Center** (NYBC) is one of the nation's largest community-based non-profit blood centers. NYBC has been providing life-saving blood products and clinical transfusion services to nearly 200 hospitals in New York and New Jersey for 40 years. New York Blood Center is not a blood bank: it is the pipeline to nearly 200 New York metropolitan area hospitals. They collect, process, and distribute blood to our neighborhood health care institutions that take care of our families, friends and neighbors.

Challenges to Our Blood Supply

Our region suffers from a shortage of local blood donors, and less than ideal donor frequency (those who donate don't do so often enough). Only 2% of our population donates blood each year, compared to the national average of 5%. And, of these donors, 70% only donate once a year and 50% do not return the following year.

Why We Need Donors

Blood is perishable and has a very short shelf life of only 42 days. Platelets, a component of blood needed for clotting (often needed by cancer patients), last only for five days. There is no substitute for human blood. **New York area hospitals require almost 2200 pints of blood per day** just to meet routine needs. Unpredictable disasters require even more. With just a single donation, a person can help several people (up to four) once blood is processed and broken down into its components (red blood cells, plasma, platelets).

Medical Safety

Blood is safer than it's ever been. NYBC performs 13 tests on donated blood, including tests for HIV, Hepatitis, Syphilis and now, West Nile Virus. All materials used to collect blood are new (never used), sterile and disposable, and are used only once.

Donor Eligibility Requirements

It is safe to donate whole blood every 56 days (up to six times per year). Platelets can be donated every 3 days (up to 24 times per year). **At the time of donation, donors must have either photo or signed identification.**

PLEASE COME DOWN ON 10/21/2009 AFTER WORK!

PLEASE DONATE BLOOD.