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Leader

This holiday season, one celebrity is taking the time to thank blood donors and help in the lifesaving mission. Food Network's Paula Deen joins the American Red Cross to say "Thanks for givin'."

All those coming to donate in November will receive a limited edition Paula Deen inspired apron, special recipes and a holiday message of thanks especially from Paula (while supplies last.) Locally, donations can be made at the Liberal community blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25 at the Edwards Western Ave. Church of Christ, 215 S. Western Ave.

"The Red Cross is thrilled to have Paula Deen helping us raise awareness for the need for blood during the holidays," said Pam Head, CEO, Central Plains Region. "Please add donating blood to your list of important things to do this holiday season. It just takes an hour but can give someone else the opportunity to spend another holiday with loved ones."

With the holiday season comes fluctuations in a community's blood supply, so the Red Cross needs the help of the community to be sure that blood is available when it's needed. Every day, more than 38,000 people in this country must have blood to help treat everything from planned surgeries to car accidents. And, regardless of the time of year, every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

In recent years, the holiday season has been particularly difficult on the local blood supply. For more information, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE

(1-800-448-3543) or log onto bloodisneeded.org.

If donors are at least 17 years of age (16 in Kansas with completed Parental Consent Form), weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in general good health, they may be eligible to donate blood. The Red Cross reminds those coming to donate to bring a photo ID.

And, as Paula says, “Thanks for givin’, y’all.”

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