**Students of [\*Name of School\*]** **Ask Community to “Roll-Up” Sleeves and Donate Blood [\*in Honor of** **Honoree, Group, Special Need (if applicable)\*]**

**[\*Date of release\* / New York, NY] –** Students of [\*Name of School\*] are hosting a blood drive with New York Blood Center (NYBC) [\*in honor of Person, Group, or Special Need (if applicable)\*] on [\*Date and Time\*] at [\*Address\*] in [\*City or Town\*]. [\*Add event-specific line.\*] [\*\*\**If applicable:* Scheduling a time to donate is suggested and can be done by calling NYBC at (800) 933-2566 or visiting www.nybloodcenter.org.]

[\*Add paragraph of background on the students and the event -- person, group, or special need.\*]

The entire process takes less than an hour, and a single donation can be used to save multiple lives. Donors with O-negative blood type, or “universal donors,” are encouraged to attend, as their blood can be transfused into anyone in a trauma situation.

Nearly 2,000 donations are needed each day in New York and New Jersey alone. About one in seven hospital admissions requires a blood transfusion. With a limited shelf life, supplies must be continually replenished.

What: [\*Name of Organization or Community\*] Blood Drive in Honor of

[\*Honoree, Group, or Special Need\*]

When: [\*Date\*]

 [\*Time\*]

Where: [\*Address\*]

 [\*Directions if necessary\*]

The Little Doctors Program® is the brainchild of Karen Brothers, a middle school educator. Now in its 14th year, it provides students an opportunity to learn from the experience of organizing and planning a community blood drive. As part of the Little Doctors Program, students participate in a special lesson about the lifesaving properties of blood and how it is used in their community. They then recruit family members and neighbors for a blood drive to be held at the school. At the blood drive the students are outfitted in hospital scrubs where they serve as "Little Doctors" to greet donors and serve post donation refreshments. To date, about 600 elementary and middle schools have sponsored Little Doctors Program blood drives.

**To donate blood or for information on how to organize a blood drive,**
**Please call Toll Free: 1-800-933-2566
Visit:** [**www.nybloodcenter.org**](http://www.nybloodcenter.org/)

If you cannot donate but still wish to participate in bringing crucial blood products to patients in need, please ask someone to donate for you, or consider volunteering at a local blood drive.

**Any company, community organization, place of worship, or individual may host a blood drive.** NYBC also offers special community service scholarships for students who organize community blood drives during summer and winter months. Blood donors receive free mini-medical exams on site including information about their temperature, blood pressure and hematocrit level. Eligible donors include those people at least age 16 (with parental permission or consent), who weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, are in good health and meet all Food & Drug Administration and NY or NJ State Department of Health donor criteria. People over 75 may donate with a doctor's note.

**About New York Blood Center**

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, New York Blood Center (NYBC) is one of the largest independent, community-based blood centers in the country. Each year, NYBC provides approximately one million blood products to nearly 200 hospitals in the Northeast. NYBC also provides a wide array of transfusion-related medical services. NYBC is also home to the world’s largest public cord blood bank, which provides stem cells for transplant in many countries, and a renowned research institute, which – among other milestones -- developed the Hepatitis B vaccine and innovative blood purification technology. Website:  [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org" \t "_blank)

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