

First blood drive at Hills arena pumps life into cause

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About 50 pints of blood were drawn Wednesday during an

American Red Cross blood drive held for the first time at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

A single blood donation can save up to three lives.

"It was a success," said Beth

Henderson, an office manager at the arena on Eight Mile Road.

Henderson spearheaded plans for the drive which was held for the first time at the arena.

After noticing that a blood drive often held at Fire Station No. 5 at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake was so successful, Henderson wondered, "Why can't we have one here?"

Though about 60 people showed up to donate, blood from 50 could be used, said Marie Mangus, manager of communication and marketing for the Red Cross in Detroit.

"We had 60 productive pints," she said. "Certain people couldn't donate because of medical conditions. We need 800 pints a day for hospitals in southeastern Michigan. So we need to see about 1,000 people daily."

Mangus encourages people to continue donating blood during the summer and credited the Farmington area for faithfully donating blood.

Michigan is chronically short of blood, according to Red Cross information.

Each year hospitals in southeast Michigan use about 240,000 blood units. Only about 195,000 units are collected.

"We especially need O type and B type blood," Mangus said.

About 38 percent of the population has type O blood, making it the most common. The rarest blood type is AB negative, which includes about 1 percent of the population.

This region has to import about 60,000 red blood cell units or 25 percent of the blood supply, officials said.

About 34 percent of donations

come from the workplace, 34 percent from people visiting donor centers, 20 percent from churches and other civic groups and 12 percent from high schools and colleges.

During the past three years one million fewer people nationwide donated.

About six million units of whole blood is collected nationally each year.

The Red Cross provides about 50 percent of the nation's blood supply, 25 percent of tissue for transplantation and 15 percent of plasma derivatives.

It relies on a small pool of donors. Less than 5 percent of the eligible population gives blood to support the remaining 95 percent.

To donate you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health. A healthy adult can donate every 56 days.

The median age of a blood donor is 38 years old. About 53 percent of donors are male, 47 percent are female.

For more information call the Red Cross, (313) 676-4184.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDLER

Almost time: First-time donor Sheila Nash is prepared for donating blood by nurse Barbara Collins.

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times before his heart resumed beating.

"We did eventually get a pulse," Miller said.

"He was absolutely dead (when we got there)," Schulz said.

He added that excellent CPR was in progress when they arrived. "I was impressed with officer Crump's medical efforts."

Six minutes into the incident, the ambulance arrived at the scene, according to reports.

Miller said, "Once the paramedics arrived I was able to help them." She assisted with intubating the victim.

Intravenous lines were established, the victim was "buck boarded" and transported to Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

"The rescue efforts that saved the man's life were: compression, ventilation and the LifePak 500 (defibrillator)," Schulz said.

Miller said the victim would not have survived if help had not been immediately available. "I

have been praying for him all night," Miller said Thursday.

Crump said the man was fortunate that someone saw a police car and thought to run for help.

The man was transported to Botsford General Hospital. At last report, the victim is expected to recover.

"They tell me he is doing very well," Crump said.

Crump said he hopes the incident will serve to teach people the importance of learning CPR.

"When I got there, a circle of people were just standing around this guy."

"Some of the soccer players should wake up and take a CPR class," he said. "If you are playing in an over-40 league the chances increase that something like this could happen."

Crump, 43, said he learned CPR 30 years ago as a Boy Scout.

The four people involved in the rescue are modest about their part in the lifesaving effort.

"It's my job," Crump said. "I'm just happy that he is going to be able to go back to his family." Crump has been a police officer for 17 years.

Madigan explained that Farmington is an older community. "We have an opportunity to do CPR frequently."

"When you have a save like this - it's wonderful," Schulz said.

Miller was not even supposed to be at the soccer field that day, and had the opportunity to go watch her son play at the last minute. "I have Christian beliefs. I believe people are sometimes put where they are supposed to be."

Dwyer said the incident "illustrates the positive results which often occur when police, citizens and other emergency responders work together in a time of great need."

"It was a good team effort," said Madigan. "We care."

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