

Wauneta-area blood donors making a big difference in the lives of others in U.S.

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 14 February 2013 18:42 -

Wauneta blood donors

are making a big

difference in Nebraska

and Georgia hospitals

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

Local blood drive co-chairs Lana Skelton and Janet Keiser recently got news from the American Red Cross concerning the impact that Wauneta-area donors are making across the county.

In December 2012 the Wauneta blood drive collected 32 pints of blood.

According to the Red Cross, those 32 pints of blood have the potential to save as many as 96 lives.

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The blood donated in Wauneta helps to assure the local blood needs are met, and helps contribute to the blood needs throughout the country.

The blood collected in Wauneta is on its way to the following hospitals:

- Nebraska Methodis Hospital in Omaha
- Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings
- Coliseum Medical Centers in Macon, Ga.
- Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, Ga.
- Northside Hospital-Forsyth in Cumming, Ga.
- Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Ga.
- Tanner Medical Center in Carrollton, Ga.
- Bellevue Medical Center in Bellevue, Neb.
- VA Medical Center in Omaha

Many donors may wonder what happens to their blood after it is donated.

The Red Cross explained the chain of events in their recent communication to Skelton and Keiser. Approximately one pint of blood is collected from each donor.

All blood donations are labeled and scanned into a database.

Once the blood is taken back to the lab tests establish the blood type and ensure it is free from infection.

Most blood is then centrifuged and separated into three parts—red cells, platelets and plasma.

The donated blood then becomes available for shipping to hospitals 24 hours a day, seven days a week where it is given to those in need.

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The next blood drive in Wauneta is scheduled for April. Everyone is invited to come to the blood drive to learn more about the donation process and give the gift of life to those in need.

For more information on Wauneta blood drives contact Lana Skelton at 308-394-5280 or Janet Keiser at 308-394-5191.