



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

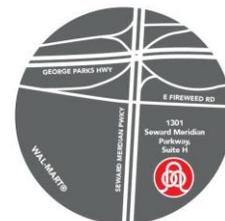
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Blood Bank of Alaska Opens Wasilla Center to Serve Valley Blood Donors

Blood Bank of Alaska has opened a new community blood center in Wasilla to serve Valley blood donors. The center is located at 1301 Seward Meridian Parkway (across from Walmart). In 2009 the previous Wasilla center was closed and Valley donors began donating in Anchorage or at mobile drives. For many of our donors the drive to Anchorage was challenging and some donors preferred to donate at a center rather than donating at a mobile drive. The board of directors approved the opening of the center in November of 2014 to better serve the community. Mat-Su Regional Medical Center is one of the many hospitals supplied with blood and blood products by our volunteer blood donors. Mat-Su Regional Medical Center C.E.O, John Lee shared his support, "Creating a satellite location in Wasilla would dramatically increase blood donations in Alaska's second most populated region. Establishing the capacity to store blood products in a location close to Mat-Su Regional Medical Center would provide for faster access to blood products and will enhance the quality of care for victims of motor vehicle accidents, traumatic injuries and mass casualty events in Mat-Su Borough communities."



GRAND OPENING : BLOOD BANK OF ALASKA WASILLA CENTER APRIL 17, 2015



The official ribbon cutting ceremony takes place April 17th from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. to celebrate our return to the Valley. The center will be open Wednesday – Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m and is equipped to see four donors at a time. Blood Bank of Alaska is set to collect whole blood donations beginning in April and is working on the approval process to collect apheresis donations at this center in the near future. Bob Scanlon notes, "We have many donors that would love to donate plasma or platelets, but prefer not to make the long drive from Anchorage to Wasilla after their donation is complete. We are very excited to offer these donors a local option so they can donate more conveniently. While the blood we collect at Blood Bank of Alaska supplies hospitals across the state, it is important that we have a presence in the communities we serve." Blood Bank of Alaska will continue to host some mobile drives in the Valley, but will use the center to provide a more consistent donation option for donors. Donors are encouraged to make appointments to limit their wait time when donating. There is no substitute for blood when it is needed. Hospital patients only receive blood from volunteer blood donors and they count on the generosity of these strangers to recover.

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BLOOD BANK OF ALASKA

Blood Bank of Alaska supplies blood to 21 Alaska hospitals and medical centers. Blood Bank of Alaska and its donors are dedicated to serving the Alaska community by safe, pure and potent blood products and laboratory services while meeting changing healthcare needs. Learn more at www.bloodbankofalaska.org. Thousands of lives saved and counting, helping Alaska patients in need.