

Rhode Island  
Blood  
Center

the  
**community**  
lifeline

www.ribc.org

Blood screening **2**

Pawsox **3**

Volunteers honored **4 - 5**

Jazz/Folk Festival Partnership **7**

## eDonor offers blood donors new options

providing a higher level of customer service

Life can be hectic, so the fact that people like you take time from your busy day to donate blood is heart-warming. Our job at the Rhode Island Blood Center is to make your blood donation experience as convenient as possible. That's where eDonor comes in.

eDonor is a new feature on our Website that allows donors to set an appointment to donate blood at any of our five donor centers or at blood drives. Besides setting an appointment, there are many other features that eDonor offers. Here's a preview of what you'll find on-line:

### How to log on:

Go to our Website, [www.ribc.org](http://www.ribc.org), and click on the eDonor link, which brings you to the eDonor home page. If you have donated at the Rhode Island Blood Center before, you already have an account. Choose the "Log into your eDonor account" selection, where you will be asked to enter your donor ID and password.



Your donor ID can be found on your donor card. If your donor ID starts with zeros, skip the zeros and start with the first non-zero digit. For example, if your donor ID is 0000123456, you would enter 123456.

### Your personal Home Page:

Once you have logged on, you will be directed to your own personal eDonor home page. Notice on the right side that several items of information about you are displayed. For instance, your blood type and last donation date are displayed, as well as the dates when you are next eligible to donate. Be assured that all information contained on your page is confidential. You are the only person who has access to that page.

### Make an Appointment:

The main function of eDonor is the ability to make an appointment. By clicking on this tab, you can either search for a blood drive anywhere in the state or

*continued on page 7*

## Seasons' Pass 2007-2008 Artist makes an impression



Artist Domine Vescera Ragosta

Domine Vescera Ragosta of Greenville, known for her impressionistic style landscapes, is the Rhode Island Blood Center's Seasons' Pass artist for 2007-2008.

Individuals who donate four times between March 1, 2007 and February 29, 2008 will receive a print of a Domine Vescera Ragosta painting produced exclusively for four-time-a-year blood donors.

Prints of Harley Bartlett's beautiful painting are being distributed to individuals who donated four times between March 1 of last year and Feb. 28 this year.

*continued on page 6*

## Blood Center introduces new procedures

With blood donations becoming more directed, matching donors with specific product needs continues to evolve, assuring a safer blood supply that meets patients' specific requirements.

"We are continuing our progression toward sophistication," said Beth Wilcox, the Rhode Island Blood Center's Director of Donor Services, in response to new procedures surrounding precautions for a patient condition called Transfusion/Related-Acute/Lung Injury (TRALI).

The Rhode Island Blood Center is at the forefront of developing and implementing procedures to identify certain conditions that could lead to TRALI, a rare but serious transfusion-related respiratory condition for patients.

"We will be conducting certain additional procedures that will enable us to guide donors to which donation is most appropriate for them," said Dr. Carolyn Young, the Rhode Island Blood Center's Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. "We are matching our donors more specifically with the appropriate donation."

Certain precautionary measures have been recommended by the AABB, an international association that provides oversight for local and regional blood centers. The AABB recommends testing of individuals whose plasma may contain antibodies that if transfused could lead to complications from TRALI.

The challenge facing blood collection agencies, said Young and Wilcox, is to educate donors that even if they test positive for the TRALI related antibodies, their donations are still valuable. They may be asked to donate whole blood, rather than specific platelets or plasma. There is no health risk to the individuals who test positive.

"TRALI takes us to another level," Wilcox said. "We're looking at donors by gender, health histories,

and blood type."

Specifically, the Blood Center is implementing new measures that the donors likely will hardly notice:

- Beginning the end of April, 2007 donors were asked if they have ever been pregnant, had a blood transfusion, or transplant. A small minority of these donors may have developed the sufficient antibodies that could be transmitted in plasma and potentially lead to TRALI.
- If a donor answers yes to any of the above questions, an additional blood test will be done in the Rhode Island Blood Center's Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Laboratory.
- If a donor tests positive, the Blood Center will encourage the donor to donate whole blood, rather than platelets or plasma by apheresis. Only products that don't have a lot of plasma will be made for transfusion. Red

continued on page 6



### Newsletter Committee

Lawrence F. Smith  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Scott Asadorian  
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Carolyn T. Young, M.D.  
Vice President and Chief Medical Officer

Frank Prosnitz, Editor

Kathy Connolly

Leslie Moreau

Jenifer Wells

**Host a  
Blood  
Drive!**

**Do you know a company or organization  
that might host a blood drive?**

**Call Frank Prosnitz  
Community Development Manager  
401-248-5723**

## Pawsox win big with Blood Center partnership

For Mike Tamburro, president of the Pawtucket Red Sox, success is measured not only by how well the team does on the field, but by how much it gives back to the community. That's why

the Pawsox hold three blood drives a year, and have been doing it for more than a decade.

"It is one of the truly good things we do in the community," said Tamburro, who donates at each of the Pawsox drives.



He first started donating when an uncle had leukemia and he became acutely aware of the importance of donating blood. That was in 1977 in Elmira, NY, when Tamburro was in his 20's.

Since then he's had several family members who have been blood recipients.

"I just realized how important blood donation is," Tamburro said.

So it was natural for the Pawsox family and the Blood Center to form a partnership several years ago.

At each blood drive, the Pawsox collect between 15 and 25 pints of blood, which means that over the decade they've been holding drives, they've collected, about 1,000 pints of blood.

Since each pint of blood has the potential of saving three lives (blood is separated into three components – red cells, plasma and platelets), Pawsox donors have potentially saved 3,000 lives.

Tamburro said blood donors come from fans, Pawsox office staff, and players' wives.

"Feedback is always positive," he said. "It is imperative for everyone in the community to support the work of the Blood Center. It goes back to our philosophy. If we're going to be successful long-term, we need to give back to the community."



## notebook

### Special delivery!!!

Over the years NOW Courier's **Delivery** drivers have made deliveries in blizzards, floods and hurricanes. Recently, courier Ed Rose used creativity and determination to ensure an emergency medical shipment reached its destination.

After a tractor trailer rollover blocked all five lanes of traffic in downtown Providence, RI, Ed persuaded a state trooper to land a helicopter on the highway and personally deliver the blood he was carrying from St. Lukes Hospital to the Rhode Island Blood Center.

### High School Winners

High School students, faculty and staff remain among the Rhode Island Blood Center's most committed donors.

To recognize exceptional high school programs, the Blood Center established a High School Hero program a few years ago. Schools are recognized in categories, based upon size, and donations are a percentage of the number of students in the school's senior class. This year's winners are:

#### 250 plus senior class

First place: Portsmouth High School

Second place: Pilgrim High School

Third place: Classical High School

#### 151 - 250 senior class

First place: Johnston High School

Second place: Burrillville High School

Third place: West Warwick High School

#### 0 - 150 plus senior class

First place: Moses Brown School

Second place: Feinstein High School

Third place: North Smithfield High School

## volunteer spotlight

# Volunteers honored at luncheon

The Rhode Island Blood Center honored many of its volunteers at an annual awards luncheon at The Crowne Plaza in Warwick. The event's theme this year was "timeless duets."

"These are relationships that really run through everything we do," said Christopher Macri, the Rhode Island Blood Center's volunteer coordinator. "When people volunteer to donate, they work together with a phlebotomist to give a pint of life sustaining blood.

"Once their pint is processed, it goes to someone who is truly in need. Although this donor and this recipient may never meet they have made a bond that is rare. Through their donation they have saved the life of someone in their community. Each time you make a blood delivery, assist a donor or remind people to donate with a mailing you help forge these bonds."

Macri said that because the Blood Center recognizes the importance of these bonds, it decided to honor those volunteers who support the blood center by volunteering together. Honored were:

- **Roberta Blum** and **Lori Mckenzie**, who work in the Providence office.
- **Joe Connolly** and **Roland Lataille**, who work together at all of our media drives and at many high school and community drives.
- **Eileene Cruceta** and **Raymond Harris**, who help in the office and at some of our mobile drives.
- **Lily Massiwer** and **Diana Hashway**, who help at drives and at the Providence center
- **Pat** and **Carolyn Mongeau**, help us at drives and in our administrative work in Providence.



**Rhode Island Blood Center Volunteer Coordinator Chris Macri with David Bojar, driver of the year**

Besides duets that volunteer, the Blood Center honored several individuals who helped recruit new volunteers: Allan Uffer, Richard Courtens, Charles Nelson and Brian Nihill.

Recognized for length of service were Carol Finnegan and Allan Uffer for five years, Ann Calcutt for 10 years, and Reeva Curren for 15 years.

Major awards were presented to:

- **Trish Blake**, administrative volunteer of the year award. Trish left the Blood Center in the fall, but still managed to assist us for some 384 hours during 2006.
- **David Bojar**, driver of the year. David routinely requests 15 or more runs a month and is always willing to literally go the extra mile for us. He is also a four gallon donor.
- **Helen Oliveira**, greeter and refreshment volunteer of the year. Helen has assisted the Blood Center for 12 years, and although she retired in November she still had the highest hours total with 441 hours.

# Volunteer Opportunities

**Greeter/Refreshment:** greet and direct donors, pass out refreshments  
Days, times and sites flexible, weekdays and weekends available

**Driver:** pick up boxed blood at mobile drives  
Days, times and sites flexible, weekdays and weekends available

**Clerical:** help us with various mailings and projects  
Providence and weekdays only, days and times flexible

**Learn more by calling! Volunteer Coordinator 401-453-8378**



Blood Center volunteers at their annual awards luncheon at the Crowne Plaza, Warwick.



RIBC intern Justin Williams with Pat and Carolyn Mongeau.



Lily Massiwer (left) and Diana Hashway enjoy the volunteer luncheon.



Chris Macri, the Blood Center's volunteer coordinator presents a Presidential Service Award to Roberta Blum.



Blood Center staff and volunteers check out the 1956 Mercury Medalist brought by Pauline Dugal.

## SEASONS' PASS (from page 1)

Bartlett's painting was unveiled at a press conference in early March.

Ragosta becomes the fifth artist to participate in the Seasons Pass program, which is winning recognition not only among donors, but within the arts community. The Providence Art Club, the most prestigious artist organization in Rhode Island and among the oldest clubs of its kind in the nation, has recognized the Seasons' Pass program in its newsletter to members. Three of the five Seasons' Pass Artists (Ragosta, Bartlett, and Maxwell Mays) have been Providence Art Club members.

"A successful work of art is that which delights the eye, stimulates the mind and captivates the spirit," said Ragosta. "By donating blood an individual not only has the potential for saving lives, but for providing hope and therefore uplifting the spirit as well."

Ragosta works in oils, painting scenes from throughout New England and from her studio on Hawkins Pond in Greenville.

Her corporate collections appear in businesses and organizations throughout the Northeast.

The Seasons' Pass program began in 2003 with the introduction of Cindy Kelly, a Block Island artist. In 2004, the artist was Maxwell Mays and the following year it was fine art photographer Richard Benjamin.

Bartlett's painting is of a meadow, with a family boarding a small boat, and the open water behind. He describes it this way:

"When I donate a pint of blood, I understand that it not only helps an individual, but it reaches out to an entire family – like the one settling into the boat in the painting. That blood donation turns despair into hope, anxiety into peacefulness. Like that family in the boat, with an open expanse of water in the background – an adventure to experience – so it is with the families of so many blood recipients, who because of blood donors can again view the future with a sense of hope and adventure."

To qualify for a print an individual must donate four times between March 1, 2007 and February 29, 2008. Companies or organizations that host four blood drives a year also receive a print.



A Domine Vescera Ragosta painting

## TRALI (from page 2)

cells are critical for a wide variety of conditions, and these can be used from donors testing positive for the antibodies.

- If the testing is negative a donor does not need to modify the way they donate, although they will be retested if they experience another pregnancy, transfusion, or transplant before their next donation.

Young and Wilcox both believe that by being pro-active and educating donors, the Blood Center will be able to avoid shortages of platelets or plasma. Donor specialists will be at the forefront educating donors who are not in the target groups to switch to platelet or plasma donations if appropriate.

## Reminders

### Seasons' Pass

Donate four times before February 29, 2008 and receive a print of a Domine Vescera Ragosta painting.

For more information call 1-800-283-8385

## Jazz and Folk Festivals partner with Blood Center to promote blood donations during July 4<sup>th</sup> week

The Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals are again partnering with the Rhode Island Blood Center to encourage blood donation during the difficult July 4<sup>th</sup> week.

With many traditional blood drive outlets closed, usage up, and donors thinking about the beach and backyard picnics, blood collection during the July 4<sup>th</sup> week is often difficult.

To encourage individuals to donate the week of the Fourth, the Rhode Island Blood Center will be raffling a pair of tickets to the Newport Jazz Festival and a pair of tickets to the Newport Folk Festival at each of the Blood Center's five donor centers. Each center will also raffle five special CDs that celebrate the Jazz Festival's first 50 years.

This is a partnership that began in 2005, when the Marrow Donor Program spent two days at the Jazz Festival registering individuals for the marrow program.

Ten-time Grammy winner and multi-platinum artist Linda Ronstadt opens the folk festival on Friday, August 3. Featured performers over the next two days include the Allman Brothers Band, Alison Krauss & Union Station, Emmylou Harris, and Cheryl Wheeler. The Blood Center will be raffling tickets to the Sunday

performances.

The Jazz Festival kicks off on August 10 with the Dianna Reeves & her band and Nnenna Freelon. The next two days will feature the Branford Marsalis Quartet, Joshua Redman Trio, Chico Hamilton &

Euphoria, David Brubeck, Abdullah Ibrahim, BB King, Etta James & The Roots Band, and Jon Faddis' Teranga. The Blood Center will be raffling tickets to the Saturday performances.

For information about the festivals, and a complete line-up, visit the Festival Web Site at [www.festivalproductions.net](http://www.festivalproductions.net).

The donor center hours for July 4<sup>th</sup> week are:

Providence -- 405 Promenade St.  
– Monday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.;  
Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday,  
7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Middletown -- 688 Aquidneck Ave.  
– Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon.

Narragansett -- 14 Woodruff Ave. – Monday,  
11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and  
Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon.

Warwick – 400 Bald Hill Road, Warwick Mall –  
Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday and  
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Woonsocket – Pavilion Plaza, 2168 Diamond  
Hill Road – Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 7 p.m.;  
Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



**Branford Marsallis**

### eDONOR (from page 1)

select a donor center. Before selecting an appointment time, please click the type of donation you would like to make at the top of the appointment screen. The default is Whole Blood, so if you want to schedule an automated red cell appointment, click that link. Notice how the appointment slots change. Once you make an appointment, and depending on your email system, you can have that appointment automatically transfer to your calendar. Also, you can automatically get directions to the center or blood drive by clicking the appropriate link on the confirmation page.

### Manage Your Account:

This tab allows you to complete and update your personal and contact information. Please take the time to update your email address. eDonor will send you email reminders for all your appointments (we do not sell your email address).

There's much more to eDonor. Explore it and, most importantly, thank you for helping save lives!!! If you have any questions, please call 401-248-5770.

# Save a life. Donate blood.

| site                | address                                     | donation hours  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Providence</b>   | 405 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908     | Monday - Thursday • 8am to 8pm<br>Friday • 7:30am to 5:30pm<br>Saturday • 7:30am to 2:30pm    |
| <b>Middletown</b>   | 688 Aquidneck Ave, Middletown, RI 02842     | Tuesday and Thursday • 12:30pm to 7:30pm<br>Wednesday • 10am to 5pm<br>Saturday • 8am to Noon |
| <b>Narragansett</b> | 14 Woodruff Ave., Narragansett, RI          | Monday & Wednesday • 11:30am to 6:30pm<br>Friday • 11am to 5pm<br>Saturday • 8am to Noon      |
| <b>Warwick</b>      | 400 Bald Hill Rd. Warwick Mall              | Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday • 10am to 7pm<br>Saturday & Sunday • 8:30am to 1pm              |
| <b>Woonsocket</b>   | Pavilion Plaza, 2168 Diamond Hill Rd. 02895 | Tuesday & Thursday • Noon to 7pm<br>Saturday & Sunday • 8am to 2pm                            |



**the**  
**community**  
**lifeline**  
a publication of the Rhode Island Blood Center

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #1000  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02908

405 Promenade Street • Providence, RI 02908  
1-800-283-8385