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Call for donors continues;
LifeSouth faces **emergency** need
for blood donors



This picture taken of the front of the Chiefland center for LifeSouth Community Blood Centers shows the scene on Thursday afternoon. The hours on Friday and Saturday for this location are Friday: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. An email from LifeSouth staff mentioned that a couple of donors came in after the first publication of the emergency need on July 18. Each donor may be saving as many as three lives with their gift of a blood donation.

Photo (above) by Jeff M. Hardison © July 21, 2017 at 9:07 a.m.

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The empty shelves are places where bags of refrigerated donated blood would be occupying and ready for use by hospitals. This photo may help people understand that there literally is this level of a critical, emergency need for blood right now. Hospitals are still in dire need of blood now.

Photo Provided by LifeSouth Community Blood Centers

By Jeff M. Hardison

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GAINESVILLE -- LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is facing an **emergency need for all blood types**, and encourages the community to donate blood, according to a press release at 2:26 p.m. on Tuesday (July 18), and conversations with staff on Wednesday, Thursday and now on Friday morning (July 21).

Summer is historically a slow time for blood donations due to travel and school breaks, while the need to help patients in local hospitals remains constant. This summer continues to be a challenge not only to LifeSouth, but also to blood centers across the country.

“Donations have decreased exceptionally this summer, and patients at our hospitals are depending on donors to give blood,” said LifeSouth District Director Lorrie Woods.

LifeSouth encourages donors to come into a donor center or find a blood drive location on their website, <http://www.lifesouth.org/>. First time donors are always welcome and encouraged to give blood donation a try. All donors are important to help meet the needs of the local blood supply.

LifeSouth only uses the word “emergency” when the reserve supply to restock area hospitals drops below a two-day level. All blood types are needed, especially negative blood types and O negative, which is the universal donor and can be used by all patients in an emergency. Platelet donations are also critically needed now.

“Patients at our hospitals depend on blood donors to survive. We need the help of our

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donors and new donors today,” Woods said.

All donors receive a thank you gift, and a mini-physical, including blood pressure, temperature, iron level and cholesterol screen.

Donors must be at least 17 or 16 with parental permission, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health. A photo ID is needed.

LifeSouth’s donor center in Chiefland is located at 2202 N. Young Blvd. (U.S. Highway 19), Suite 606.

LifeSouth’s bloodmobiles will also be out at many locations in coming days, including at the Smokin’-N-the-Country BBQ Festival on U.S. Alt. 27 in Williston on Saturday, July 22 from Noon until 7 p.m. For additional information call LifeSouth toll-free at 888-795-2707 or visit <http://www.lifesouth.org/>.