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Owners and Publishers



Published every Thursday at 38 Ames Ave., Rutherford, 86 Lincoln Place, East Rutherford, and 335 Hackensack St., Carlstadt, in the interest of the People of South Bergen County, Boroughs of Rutherford, East Rutherford and Carlstadt, N. J. and entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Rutherford, N. J., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Member, New Jersey Press Association, Quality Group Weeklies of New Jersey, National Editorial Assn. Copy for display advertising accepted to Tuesday, 6 P. M. Classified Ads. to Wednesday, 12 Noon. Rate Card upon request.

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Rutherford Community Blood Bank

It is a point of interest and gratifying to public-minded citizens that operation of Rutherford Community Blood Bank officially becomes effective next Monday, November 25, when more than 200 volunteer blood-donating citizens will give blood -- the first 60 to 75 pints -- for the Rutherford supply -- and available to citizens in need of transfusions. This supply will be delivered to the Bergen County Community Blood Bank at Paramus -- to be drawn upon as needed by Rutherford citizens.

It was not by design but purely coincidental that operation of Rutherford Blood Bank should officially be started during Thanksgiving week. Truly, "more blessed to give" applies here in a very fitting and appropriate manner.

Organization of Rutherford Community Blood Bank has been in process for more than a year, the moving citizen in launching the program being the late Thomas M. Crotzer, chief organizer of Rutherford First Aid Ambulance Corps. Mr. Crotzer was first to see the need and to move on the project -- so that Rutherford might join several other Bergen County municipalities in support of the Bergen County Community Blood Bank -- and making possible a vital supply of freshly processed and top-grade blood for hospitals in the area and at minimum cost (except for hospital administrative costs) to all bonafide Rutherford citizens.

At its launching, Rutherford Community Blood Bank is supported by some 40 local

organizations, assigned members from each group lending their efforts to the program. Further, each organization has made a small cash contribution to create a small operating fund and carry the program forward. It is estimated that some 60 to 75 pints of blood must be supplied to the bank every six months -- this to assure an always fresh and usable supply.

Correctly, it has been pointed out by Rutherford chairman Robert W. Matthies, that it is essential that 100% cooperation of all residents must be had to assure the continuation of the Blood Bank program. It is estimated that there are approximately 6,000 families in Rutherford. Of these households there are possibly two to three thousand members eligible to give blood to the bank -- those persons between 21 and 59 years of age.

Even though there appears to be more than enough volunteer blood donors to meet the 6-month need in the first draw, next Monday, the committee is taking every means to enroll all eligible local blood donors for future draws and thereby assure the continued operation of the blood bank.

Pledge cards are available at every hand and we feel it is our duty to add our support in urging all eligible citizens not now registered to obtain a pledge card -- sign it and return it to the committee. To do so, they become a member of this most commendable citizen volunteer public service for fellow citizens in dire physical need.