

The holiday season is a time for people to reflect on what makes them grateful. Family, friends and good health come to mind for many.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Grant Nov. 18 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at New Life Fellowship Hall, 617 W. Fourth. All blood types are needed, especially O negative, A negative and B negative.

Appointments to donate with the American Red Cross and bring hope to patients in need can be made at redcrossblood.org or 1-800-RED CROSS.

Patients like Ethan Hoffart strive for good health during the holidays, oftentimes in a hospital room, away from family and friends. Blood donations can bring them hope.

When Ethan was 10 years old, he spent most of the holiday season being treated for aplastic anemia, a disease in which the body's bone marrow doesn't make enough new blood cells. For four months Ethan was dependent on blood transfusions every seven days and platelet transfusions every three days.

"I probably wouldn't even be here if no one gave blood," he said. "The transfusions pretty much saved me."

Thanks in part to volunteer donors, Ethan's disease is under control, and he will be at home with his family for the holidays this year.

How to Donate Blood

Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.