

MTA to Honor Sept. 11 Victims With Blood Drive

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Aug. 15, 2002) A pint of blood to honor each of the 2,485 victims of the September 11 terrorist attack. That's the ambitious goal MTA and the American Red Cross have set for next month's blood drive.

Blood collection sites will be set up, Sept. 10, at MTA Headquarters, San Gabriel Valley Division 9 and at South Bay Division 18. Drives will be conducted, Sept. 12, at Central City Division 1, North Los Angeles Division 3 and at Arthur Winston Division 5. Other divisions may be included later.



American Red Cross coordinators Amie Clark, left, and Ronya Waters, right, join Pam Engelke in MTA's blood drive effort to collect 2,485 pints of blood. Engelke suggests that donors choose the name of a Sept. 11 victim to honor with their pint of donated blood.

Information about how to sign up for a specific blood drive location and time will be available next week.

The theme for the September 11 victims memorial blood drive is, "Give for those who've already given."

Pam Engelke, MTA blood drive coordinator, suggests that donors choose the name of a Sept. 11 victim to honor with their pint of donated blood. The names of victims are listed on a CNN web site at www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/memorial.

Collecting a pint of blood to honor each September 11 victim will be a tall order, even for an organization with some 9,000 employees. Last year's blood drive at MTA Headquarters netted 80 pints.

Ask families and friends

"We hope employees who sign up also will ask their families and friends, our business partners in the community, local police and fire fighters to help us make our goal by coming in to give blood," says Engelke.

The region's blood supply is at its lowest ebb in more than 25 years, according to Amie Clark, associate director for American Red Cross blood services in Southern California.

"We have less than three percent of eligible donors in Los Angeles County donating at this time," she says.

The Red Cross must import 60 percent of the blood used to supply 150 hospitals and medical facilities in Southern California. Separated into its different components, one pint of blood can be used to help save the lives of three people.

"This is an outstanding effort by MTA," says Clark. "We don't typically see this type of commitment from an organization as large as MTA."

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