

SWOSU-Sayre Hosting OBI Blood Drive on October 12

10.01.2015

Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre and the Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI) encourage all healthy Sayre-area residents who are at least 16 years old to donate blood on Monday, October 12, at the Baptist Collegiate Ministries building next to the SWOSU-Sayre campus.

Individuals may donate blood from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the BCM, which is located at 1906 N. Watts, across the street from SWOSU-Sayre's McMahan Library.

Each donor will receive a "Bleed Blue" SWOSU T-shirt, health screenings, and donor rewards points, redeemable for items in OBI's online store.

A single donation can save as many as three Oklahomans' lives, according to John Armitage, M.D., president and CEO of OBI. Donations typically take about an hour.

"Someone needs blood every two seconds, and since blood can only be used for 42 days, we constantly need people to donate," Armitage said. "This ongoing need is why we are asking Sayre-area residents to come to this blood drive and give."

Oklahoma Blood Institute provides every drop of blood needed by patients in Sayre Regional Hospital and Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City.

OBI will also conduct a marrow registry to find marrow donors. Most marrow donations are collected through blood like regular blood donations. Most marrow donations are given to children. Every three minutes someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer and many of those patients need a marrow donation to survive. Most patients who need a marrow transplant must find a donor from outside their family.

Donors must be between 16 and 44 years old and meet certain health criteria. If a person on the donor registry is found to be a match for someone, all expenses related to the donation will be paid for the donor. There are certain restrictions for 16-18 year olds: 16-year-olds must weigh at least 125 pounds and provide signed parental permission; 17-year-olds must weigh at least 125 pounds; 18-year-olds must weigh at least 110 pounds.

Appointments are not required, but they can be made by calling Roxann Clifton at 580.28-5533 ext. 113, or at www.obl.org.