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Rebecca Welzenbach
Illinois Wesleyan University

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IWU to Host Blood Drive for Community ShareFest

September 7, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's biology honor society, Beta Beta Beta, is working with the American Red Cross to organize a blood drive that will help support medical relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina. No blood is being drawn in states devastated by the storm, creating a greater demand on the national supply.

The blood drive will take place at the University's Shirk Center (302 E. Emerson St., Bloomington) on Friday, Sept. 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at the Hansen Student Center (300 Beecher St., Bloomington) on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bloomington's Eastland Mall will also host a blood drive in the J.C. Penney wing on Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The blood drives will be a part of Bloomington-Normal's annual community ShareFest, which takes place this weekend. Inspired by an event of the same name in central Arkansas, the local version of ShareFest was founded in 2003 by Clinton Brown, a Towanda farmer, as a positive way to honor the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks by reaching out to community members in need.

Non-perishable food items, full size containers of personal care products and paper and school supplies may also be donated this weekend at a drop off point under the Eastland Mall sign at the corner of Veteran's Parkway and Empire St. All donated supplies will be distributed to McClean County area schools and organizations. Additionally, in order to support Red Cross relief efforts in the areas destroyed by Katrina, financial donations to the National Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund will be accepted.

In order to make a blood donation appointment or find out more about the blood drives, call the Red Cross at (309) 662-0500. For more information about ShareFest, visit <http://www.sharefest.info>.

Contact: Rebecca Welzenbach, (309) 556-3181