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HELP US CHANGE THE WAY 2024 HAS STARTED IN REGARD TO THE NATIONS BLOOD SUPPLY

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. Our supply has fallen to critically low levels in recent weeks across the country. Blood products are currently going to hospitals faster than blood donations are coming in. In recent weeks, the Red Cross has had to limit distributions of some of the most transfused blood types to hospitals.

• Over the last 20 years, the number of people donating blood to the Red Cross has fallen by more than 40%.

• When fewer people donate blood, even small disruptions to blood donations – such as the nearly 7,000 unit shortfall in blood donations the Red Cross experienced between Christmas and New Year’s Day alone – can have a huge impact on the availability of blood products and dramatic consequences for those in need of emergency blood transfusion.

• Additional challenges lie ahead as winter weather and seasonal illnesses like the flu and COVID19 may compound the dire blood supply situation the nation currently faces.

• This shortage comes during National Blood Donor Month, celebrated each year since 1970 to honor those who give the gift of life and encourage more blood and platelet donations during a historically difficult time to meet the blood needs of patients. The Red Cross blood supply has fallen to critically low levels in recent weeks across the country.

A sufficient blood supply is critical to being able to provide timely care for all patients in need of lifesaving blood transfusions. It's the blood on the shelves that helps in times of emergency. Blood cannot be manufactured or stockpiled and can only be made available through the kindness of volunteer donors.

Niskayuna Reformed Church – January 13

8 am – 12 pm

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