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## GULF COAST REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF MOBILE OPERATIONS COMPLEX

*Environmentally Friendly Facility Replaces Warehouse Destroyed by Fire in 2005*

**HOUSTON (May 20, 2009)** – Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center today celebrated the grand opening of its new Mobile Operations Complex. The 85,000-square-foot “green” facility at 9990 Fannin replaces the warehouse that was lost to a fire in 2005, and is the new home to more than 200 employees in the Donor Collections, Central Supply and Vehicle Maintenance Departments. It will be the launching point for more than 5,000 mobile blood drives held each year.

The occasion was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a lunch reception and remarks by Dr. Richard Wainerdi, president of the Texas Medical Center, and Houston City Council Member Wanda Adams.

“The Blood Center has saved and sustained approximately 20 million lives since we opened in 1975,” said Chief Financial Officer Melissa Fisher. “In building the Mobile Operations Complex, our vision was to seek further opportunities to give back by building green – taking fewer resources from our community and leading to greater sustainability for the environment.”

The facility is on track to receive LEED-certification in 2010. Environmentally friendly features include a solar-orientated plan, low-use water fixtures, rain tanks and a wellness center, among other things. For a complete list of green elements, see the news article on our Web site, [www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org). The site holds a piece of Houston history, as it was part of the Pierce Junction oil field that produced more than 88 million barrels of oil from 1921 to 1984.

**ABOUT US:** Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is asking its donors to *Commit for Life*. It takes three simple steps: 1) Donate once per quarter; 2) allow The Blood Center to contact you; and 3) spread the word, encouraging others to *Commit for Life*. Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is the primary supplier of blood components to more than 170 hospitals and health care facilities in a 25-county Texas Gulf Coast region. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good general health. Individuals who are 16 years old, at least 122 pounds, in good general health and have their parents’ consent also may donate. The donation process is simple, taking only about one hour. For additional information, call (713) 790-1200 or 1(888) 482-5663, or visit The Blood Center’s Web site at [www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org). Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is an independent, nonprofit blood center that is not affiliated with the American Red Cross. **Interact with us on the Web:** [www.giveblood.org/blog](http://www.giveblood.org/blog) • [www.giveblood.org/Facebook](http://www.giveblood.org/Facebook) • [www.twitter.com/commitforlife](http://www.twitter.com/commitforlife) • [www.flickr.com/photos/commitforlife](http://www.flickr.com/photos/commitforlife)

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*Commit for Life.*

1400 La Concha Lane, Houston, Texas 77054 • 713-790-1200 • 1-888-482-5663 • [www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org)

A Nonprofit Community Blood Center and Member of America’s Blood Centers, American Association of Blood Banks and the Texas Medical Center.