



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEW HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS ONGOING NEED FOR BLOOD DONATIONS IN FORT BEND COUNTY**

*Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is Primary Blood Supplier to OakBend Williams Way Campus*

**HOUSTON (Oct. 5, 2009)** –A new full-service hospital is coming to Fort Bend County, and Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center donors are helping ensure that blood is available for patients seeking treatment there.

The Blood Center is the primary blood supplier to OakBend Medical Center – Williams Way Campus, which will open its doors at US 59 and Williams Way Boulevard in Richmond this month. The addition of a new hospital in the area highlights the ongoing need for blood donations, which are needed in the treatment of surgery patients, accident victims, premature babies and many others.

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center provided more than 3,000 units of blood and blood products to OakBend’s main campus at 1705 Jackson Street in Richmond last year. As new facilities like OakBend’s Williams Way Campus open their doors, that need increases.

Fort Bend County blood donors can help save lives by donating blood at the Sugar Land Neighborhood Donor Center, 4949 Sweetwater Blvd., or at any mobile blood drive, which can be found on The Blood Center’s Web site, [www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org), by clicking on “Where to Donate” then on “Drives by City.” Individuals who ***Commit for Life*** and donate once a quarter help ensure an adequate blood supply is available at all times.

**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 26-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 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.

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*Commit for Life*®