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For Release: Immediate

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**The 26th Annual Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive Only Weeks Away
New England's largest drive aims for 1,500 donors!**

Manchester, NH –Fairpoint Communications will present The 26th Annual Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 25 and 26 at the Radisson Inn, 700 Elm Street in Manchester from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event, chaired by Stephen Singer, President of Merchants Automotive Group, is held in honor of Singer's late sister-in-law who passed away from leukemia in 1984.

"We are fortunate to have Fairpoint Communications on board as our presenting sponsor again this year. Given the success of last year's drive, I'm confident we'll meet our goal of 1,500 donors and uphold our acclamation as New England's largest drive," said Stephen Singer.

In 2008 the Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive celebrated its 25th year and became New England's largest blood drive pre-registering 1,365 donors and collecting 1,135 pints of blood.

Singer is also pleased to announce some new additions to this year's drive including two free tickets for each donor to the September Saturday race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway and a free concert by a Boston-based oldies and request band favorite, The Reminisants on Tuesday, August 25 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

All presenting donors will receive a commemorative t-shirt, free refreshments and a thank you bag including ticket vouchers and gift certificates from the NH Fisher Cats, the Manchester Monarchs, the Manchester Wolves, the Manchester Mill Rats, the SEE Science Center, the Fight to Educate, Friendly's Ice Cream, Jacques Florist, Bellman's Jewelers and more.

There will also be door prizes, entertainment, air conditioning and free parking in the Radisson garage. Learn more about the event online at gailsingermemorial.org or visit the Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive Fan Page on Facebook.

Advance appointments are not required but are recommended to help save donors' time and can be done by logging onto givelife.org and using the code 3491 or calling 625-1951

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The Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive is an American Red Cross event. Anyone over 16 years of age (16 year olds require parental consent, download form at newenglandblood.org/nh/sixteen.htm), healthy and weighing at least 110 pounds is considered eligible to donate. **Donors must have their blood donor card or a photo ID with them.** For more information about donating blood, please call 800-462-9400 to speak to an on-duty nurse.

CORPORATE CHALLENGE NOTE:

Wednesday, August 26 is reserved for the Corporate Challenge. Area businesses, non-profits, organizations and teams are encouraged to register in advance as a group. The first 15 groups of 15 or more people will receive a free suite night at MerchantsAuto.com Stadium for a NH Fisher Cats game in 2010. Corporate Challenge teams should register with Stephen Singer by calling 669-4100.

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