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**Local Businesses Challenge Others to Donate Blood August 26
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 August 25 and 26 at the Radisson Inn at 700 Elm Street in Manchester. Tuesday the drive welcomes donors from the general public and Wednesday is earmarked for large groups and corporate teams.

Together, Fairpoint Communications, Merchants Automotive Group, the American Red Cross, bGG Advertising, Manchester's WZID FM, Manchester's professional sports teams, the Radisson Inn and many others challenge the local business community to recruit as many donors as possible.

“With the help of the business community, we can continue to uphold our status as New England's largest blood drive,” said Stephen Singer, chairman of the blood drive committee and president of Merchants Automotive Group. In 2008 the drive successfully managed to collect 1,135 pints from over 1,300 donors.

The Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive has significantly increased the number of blood donors and collections in recent years, thanks to large groups with the development of what has been coined The Corporate Challenge.

Singer further explains: “ The first 15 teams of 15 or more will receive a free suite at Merchantsauto.com Stadium for a 2010 NH Fisher Cats game.” Teams of fewer numbers are also encouraged to attend. To register your team, please call Stephen Singer at 669-4100.

All presenting donors will receive 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, NH Motor Speedway, Friendly's Ice Cream, Jacques Florist, Bellman's Jewelers and more.

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. Learn more about the event online at gailsingermemorial.org or visit the Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive Fan Page on Facebook.

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