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UD Students: "Answer to Prayer"

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DAYTON, Ohio, February 19, 1985 -- The onset of hazardous weather conditions Wednesday, February 13, created an emergency situation for the Community Blood Center in Dayton. "We had three blood mobiles scheduled for February 13. All three were cancelled due to weather conditions," said Dick Redelberger, donor services representative for the center. Realizing at an emergency meeting that the situation was desperate, he knew that they "had to do something quick."

Knowing that the University of Dayton had cancelled classes, Redelberger contacted Debra Titus, resident director at Marycrest Hall, in order to establish an emergency blood bank in the lounge of the residence hall. "I went out to see her at 11 a.m. and by 1 p.m. we started," said Redelberger. Marycrest supplied the necessary tables and chairs while the nurses were gathered, some of whom had to be picked up and driven to the campus.

"The response from the UD students was phenomenal," exclaimed Redelberger. Eighty-five students signed up to donate blood, and 17 were deferred due to illness. A total of 65 pints were donated to help meet the emergency need.

The demand for blood is great, explained Redelberger. "We need 275 pints daily to meet the needs of the 27 hospitals we serve." Remembering his early reaction to the crisis, he said, "The only thing I knew to do was pray."

The next scheduled blood mobile at UD will be held Wednesday, March 6, in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Union Ballroom. It will be sponsored by the Flyer News and Sigma Tau Epsilon sorority.

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