



# Media Release

New York – Penn Blood Services Region

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## **Give Blood and Give Back to Your Community Local Organizations Team Up With the American Red Cross to Host Blood Drives**

BALLSTON SPA, NY – February 4, 2013 – Ballston Spa National Bank (BSNB) and the SHELLSTRONG Foundation are teaming up with the American Red Cross to sponsor two community blood drives on Monday, February 11, 2013. The blood drives will be held from 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at BSNB Corporate Plaza, 990 State Route 67, in Ballston Spa and at the Malta Community Center, 1 Bayberry Drive in Malta.

BSNB is honored to work with the SHELLSTRONG Foundation to bring these blood drives to our community. The SHELLSTRONG Foundation was created by Burnt Hills residents, Matt and Kim Shell, with the primary mission of supporting kids living with cancer. The Shell's son, Jacob, was diagnosed at age 8 with Stage 4 Neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer. Today, at age 12, Jacob is cancer-free. "Throughout the course of Jacob's treatment, he was given many blood transfusions. Transfusions became a regular part of life, as they are for many people while enduring cancer treatments. Without readily-available blood and platelets, cancer patients cannot continue on their treatment programs," stated Kim Shell. "We are grateful for all of those who gave blood - they helped save Jacob's life."

Blood is an essential component for patient care in area hospitals, and the only source of blood is a healthy, volunteer blood donor. "Each time you donate blood, you can help save up to three lives," stated BSNB's President and CEO, Christopher R. Dowd. "As part of our commitment to the communities we serve, BSNB is dedicated to supporting the Red Cross in maintaining an ample and safe blood supply."

Every two seconds someone in America needs blood. That's why your blood donation through the American Red Cross is so important. Walk-ins are always welcome, but donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment in advance by calling **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)** or by visiting **redcrossblood.org**.

(More)

## ABOUT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross has been a primary supplier of lifesaving blood products in the United States for more than 50 years. Eligible volunteer blood donors are asked to please call **1-800-RED CROSS** (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to find a blood drive and to make appointments. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in New York State), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to give blood. Please bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate.

## ABOUT BALLSTON SPA NATIONAL BANK

BSNB organized its first bank-sponsored blood drive in 2005. Over the years, support has grown with BSNB employees not only donating blood, but working extended hours contacting previous donors and reaching out to the community to make the drive a continued success. BSNB's President and CEO, Christopher R. Dowd, is an immediate past-Chair and current Board Member for the Adirondack-Saratoga Chapter of the American Red Cross and is also a Board Member for the Northeastern New York Region. With just the right combination of personal service and high tech convenience, BSNB offers a wide range of products and services to individuals, families, municipalities, nonprofits and businesses. Offices are located in Ballston Spa, Milton, Galway, Stillwater, Burnt Hills, Clifton Park, Malta, Greenfield Center and Wilton.

BSNB's web site can be found at [www.bsnb.com](http://www.bsnb.com). To become part of BSNB's online community, please visit us at [www.facebook.com/YourBSNB](http://www.facebook.com/YourBSNB) or [www.twitter.com/BSNB](http://www.twitter.com/BSNB).

## ABOUT THE SHELLSTRONG FOUNDATION

The SHELLSTRONG Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. With a mission of Be Hopeful. Be Involved. Be Strong., the Foundation supports kids and families being treated for cancer at The Melodies Center at Albany Med; children who wish to experience the freedom of camp at Double H Ranch in Lake Luzerne; local students and their families suffering hardships; and BH-BL High School seniors deserving of scholarships for college. For more information, please visit [www.shellstrongfoundation.org](http://www.shellstrongfoundation.org)



## PHOTO CAPTION

(From left to right) Christopher R. Dowd, Blood Donor and President/CEO, Ballston Spa National Bank and Jacob Shell, Blood Recipient

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