



**American
Red Cross**

Northwest Ohio Chapter
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News Release
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MEDIA ONLY

Local Companies donate new vehicle to transport Life-Saving blood products.

November 27, 2017 Toledo, Ohio — Steinle Automotive, First National Bank, The Bellevue Hospital and Hubbard Family McDonald's.

The American Red Cross of Northwest Ohio Biomedical transportation program has a brand new Chevy City Express sitting on their lot thanks to the kindness and generosity of local donors. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Blood and platelets are needed for accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease. Eligible donors feel good knowing that by donating through the Red Cross they may be helping patients in their community. "The Bellevue Hospital and the American Red Cross are both celebrating 100 Years of providing healthcare for our patients, which is a remarkable achievement," said Michael K. Winthrop, President and CEO of The Bellevue Hospital. "To recognize and to honor our accomplishments as well as to express our commitment to our next Century of Caring, we are pleased to invest in the Red Cross' City Express Van for all of our patients in Northwest Ohio," continued Winthrop.

"The American Red Cross is such a great organization and provides so many services aside from them being well known for their blood drives. With the recent disasters in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, the Red Cross mission has been critical to the relief efforts in these areas, said Dean Miller, President/CEO First National Bank. We are grateful for their work and glad to be able to provide support to our local chapter in conjunction with the other local companies to help fund this much needed asset," adds Miller.

This vehicle is part of a nationwide BioMedical transportation program, where volunteers transport lifesaving blood products to not only local hospitals, but additional hospitals in other counties. "By Implementing this program, we have seen a significant decrease in courier costs and more volunteer engagement by making this a volunteer position" said Rachel Hepner-Zawodny, Executive Director of the Northwest Ohio Chapter of the American Red Cross. "From a fundraising standpoint, this was an easy conversation with donors" added Hepner-Zawodny.

"When I heard about the poor condition of the aging van fleet at the Red Cross I knew we had to do something. Having the generous donation from The Bellevue Hospital to commemorate their 100th Anniversary, we decided we could help make this happen. Given the unprecedented drain on resources from a trio of natural disasters, we all felt like this was the right time to help," said Gary Steinle, Owner, Steinle Chevrolet Buick.

"The Hubbard Family McDonald's organization has always been committed to supporting our communities and the people we serve," said Tom Hubbard, Owner Operator of 14 McDonald's restaurants in Northwest Ohio. "Joining our long term friends Steinle Chev-Buick and The Bellevue Hospital for this donation was an obvious decision for our team. Our organization has proudly supported the Red Cross of Northwest Ohio for many years, and we are honored to offer this gift to

their passionate and dedicated staff. We know that it will help them to protect and serve our neighborhoods.”

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

