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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**“WORKING TOGETHER - WE CAN HELP SAVE A LIFE”  
THE DALLAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE  
AND AMERICAN RED CROSS**

*(Dallas, Texas. Nov. 13, 2007)* November is the month when we take time to remember the blessings in our lives. One of the greatest gifts you can give is the gift of life, and it can be one of the easiest gifts to share. Local blood donors can give someone the gift of life each time they give blood.

To help community blood needs, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office will be kicking off their first Red Cross Holiday Blood Drive to help meet the needs for the Thanksgiving holiday. The employee drive will be held Wednesday, November 14, from 10 am to 4 pm. District Attorney Craig Watkins is scheduled to donate blood at 1 pm.

Statistics show that someone needs blood every two seconds in this country, and so the need for blood donations is ongoing. Here in Texas and across the United States, accident victims, cancer and leukemia patients, and people needing life-saving surgeries and transfusions, require an adequate blood supply every day. Blood donations for these everyday needs are especially critical during the holidays, because donors are distracted by holiday activities and fewer people give blood.

“As prosecutors our efforts are not confined to the four walls of the courtroom, and therefore, I believe we have an obligation to be active in the community,” said District Attorney Craig Watkins. “While our primary responsibility is to seek justice in criminal cases in our jurisdiction, what better way to help a victim than by partnering with the

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American Red Cross in their efforts, as the donations collected during our office's blood drive could ultimately save the life of someone who has been the victim of a violent crime, as well as those who are faced with life-threatening injuries or diseases."

While blood recipients may never be able to personally thank the person who gave them blood, they are truly grateful, says John Anukem, Director of Donor Recruitment of the American Red Cross Blood Services, Southwest Region - Texas.

"We are excited about the Holiday drive and our partnership with the District Attorney's Office," Mr. Anukem says. "It's a great honor to work with District Attorney Craig Watkins. "We know this partnership will be making a positive difference in our community. Together, we can help save a life."

Donors must be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years of age or older. Volunteer blood donors must also show identification at registration – a valid driver's license with photo, a Red Cross donor card or another form of official picture identification.

### **About American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross is a volunteer-led humanitarian service organization dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. The American Red Cross annually provides almost half the nation's blood supply, trains more than 11.7 million people in vital lifesaving skills, mobilizes relief to victims in more than 60,000 disasters nationwide, provides direct health services to 2.8 million people, assists international disaster and conflict victims in nearly 30 countries, and transmits more than 1.4 million emergency messages to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

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