



Who we are. Memorial Blood Centers (MBC) has been saving and sustaining lives as a nonprofit, charitable organization since 1948 and is now in its 75th year of serving Minnesota.

The need for a coordinated system to receive, store, and distribute blood became clear during World War II. It was then that the Minneapolis Jaycees and Minnesota medical professionals founded The Minneapolis War Memorial Blood Bank, which now operates as MBC. Humbert H. Humphrey was one of the first Minnesota citizens to donate, and the organization continues to rely on the local community to donate blood to help ensure the availability of a safe and stable blood supply throughout the state.

Saving lives through blood and biomedical services is core to MBC's purpose in the community and for hospitals and patients (please see flipside of handout for a list of hospital partners). As a vital community resource to Trauma Centers and Critical Access Hospitals, MBC supplies roughly 70% of blood products used in Minnesota and affects hundreds of thousands of Minnesotan lives each year.

What we do. MBC employs close to 300 people in Minnesota and coordinates the activities of hundreds more volunteers. MBC employees collect the blood, transport it to our headquarters in St. Paul where every unit is tested for infectious diseases and then made into individual blood components, and stored in inventory until distributed to our hospital partners. To meet the hospital and patient need, MBC must attract close to 4,000 volunteer donors to our blood drives and donor centers every week.

At our nine donor centers located in the Twin Cities and the Northland Duluth area, we collect close to 75,000 red blood cell units, 27,000 platelet units and 5,000 plasma units. We collect an additional 29,000 red blood cell units annually at over 800 mobile blood drives in Minnesota. Blood drive partners include corporations and community organizations, from the largest corporate citizens to congregations of faith, community service organizations, government agencies, schools and colleges. These events promote social responsibility and take place from International Falls to Lakeville, including Hennepin and Ramsey County, and a blood drive right here at the State Capitol building.

Who we serve. Because of community demand, MBC is a 24/7 organization, always standing ready to serve patients in need in Minnesota.

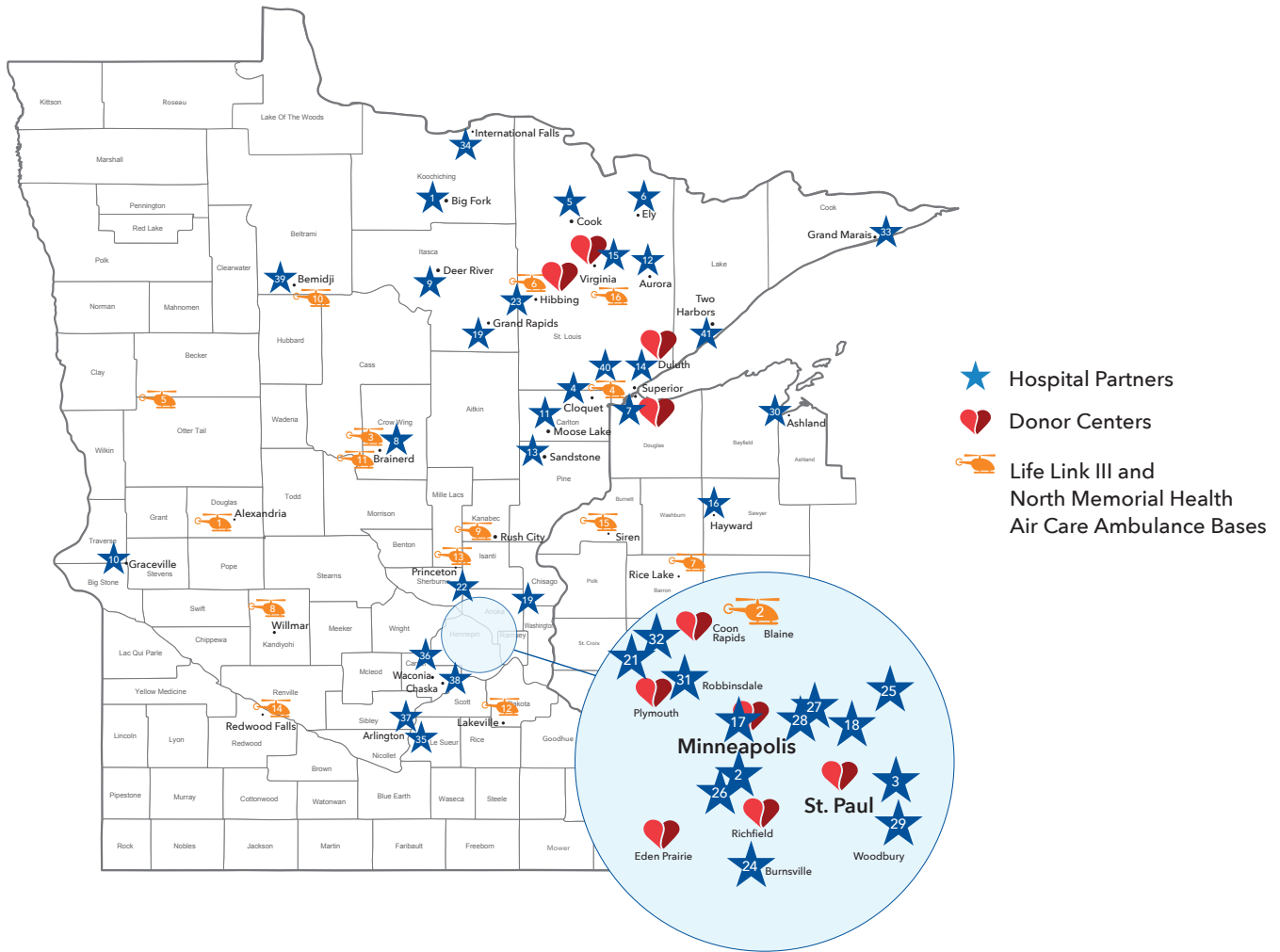
MBC proudly serves as the exclusive blood provider for 41 hospitals in Minnesota and provides life-saving blood for 16 Life Link II and North Memorial Health Air Care Ambulances. Current hospital and laboratory customers include M Health Fairview, Hennepin Health, North Memorial, Children's Minnesota, Essentia Health, Mayo, University of Minnesota researchers, and many others.

Sales Tax-Exempt Status. MBC must purchase many items necessary to the safe collection, processing, testing and distribution of blood products. Given its life-saving work and the fact that MBC has always operated as a nonprofit, charitable organization, MBC has had a Minnesota sales tax exemption in place since the late 1960s. The loss of its sales tax exemption would have substantial social and economic consequences for Minnesota hospitals, patients, and the community as a whole.

On January 15, 2020, the Department of Revenue determined that MBC is no longer entitled to sales tax exempt status under Minn. Stat. Section 297A.70, subd. 4, even though MBC's operations and nonprofit status have not changed. MBC disagrees and has contested that determination. S.F. No. 2949 would not change Minn. Stat. 297A.70, subd. 4 but instead amends subdivision 7 of that same section to add that certain sales to nonprofit blood centers are exempt.

Serving our community

Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin Hospital Partners



1. Bigfork Valley Hospital, Bigfork
2. Children's Hospitals, Minneapolis
3. Children's Hospitals, St. Paul
4. Community Memorial Hospital, Cloquet
5. Cook Hospital, Cook
6. Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital, Ely
7. Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital; Superior, WI
8. Essentia Health-Brainerd
9. Essentia Health-Deer River, Deer River
10. Essentia Health-Graceville
11. Essentia Health-Mercy Hospital, Moose Lake
12. Essentia Health-Northern Pines, Aurora
13. Essentia Health-Sandstone, Sandstone
14. Essentia Health-St. Mary's Medical Center, Duluth
15. Essentia Health-Virginia, Virginia
16. Hayward Area Memorial Hospital, Hayward
17. Hennepin Healthcare, Minneapolis
18. M Health Fairview Bethesda, Saint Paul
19. M Health Fairview, Grand Rapids
20. M Health Fairview Lakes Medical Center, Wyoming
21. M Health Fairview Maple Grove Clinics and Surgical Center
22. M Health Fairview Northland Medical Center, Princeton
23. M Health Fairview Range Medical Center, Hibbing
24. M Health Fairview Ridges Hospital, Burnsville
25. M Health Fairview Saint John's Hospital, Saint Paul
26. M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina
27. M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Medical Center - East Bank, Minneapolis
28. M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Medical Center - West Bank, Minneapolis
29. M Health Fairview Woodwinds Hospital, Woodbury
30. Memorial Medical Center, Ashland
31. North Memorial Health, Robbinsdale
32. Maple Grove Hospital, Maple Grove
33. North Shore Hospital, Grand Marais
34. Rainy Lake Medical Center, International Falls
35. Ridgeview Medical Center, Le Sueur
36. Ridgeview Medical Center, Waconia
37. Ridgeview Sibley Medical Center, Arlington
38. Ridgeview Two Twelve Medical Center, Chaska
39. Sanford Bemidji Medical Center, Bemidji
40. St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth
41. St. Luke's Lake View Memorial Hospital, Two Harbors