Holiday season is approaching and the American Red Cross is saying area residents can get an early jump on the giving season with the gift of blood at the Bloodmobile which is coming to Brady on Monday from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Brady Community Center.

Each time blood is given, the donation can help save three lives. Imagine if those three people help to save three lives, and then those people help save three more lives, and so on, and so on.

Together, people can help spread hope this holiday season by giving something that doesn't cost a thing, but can offer so much more.

Donors are encouraged to share their stories and ask others to give this holiday season. The Red Cross has partnered with Postagram to give donors a free postcard using their customized technology. Simply upload a picture of yourself giving blood, write a special message, and Postagram and the Red Cross will deliver a personalized postcard to your friend or family member in the mail.

Visit http://rcblood.org/HolidayPostcard to send your postagram.

Brady drive officials would like to collect three double donations. This allows the donor to make twice the difference by giving two units of red cells. It is more comfortable for the donor, as the saline and plasma is replaced and it is a single arm procedure with a smaller needle.

Eligible donors who give double red cells can donate them every 112 days, up to three times a year. So, fewer trips to donate are needed.

Males need to be at least 5'1" tall and weigh 130 lbs. Women must be 5'5" and weigh 150 lbs. Donors with universal O- blood type are especially encouraged to donate, but Red Cross officials will accept all types.

Donors should start drinking more non-carbonated fluids a couple days ahead of time. For an appointment, call Marilyn Bratten at 584-3257.

For information on donating, go to redcrossblood,org, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.