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For Immediate
Release
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Dumbarton House

BLOOD DRIVE and 70th Anniversary Exhibition Commemorate a Partnership between the AMERICAN RED CROSS and Dumbarton House

March 7, 2012 -- Georgetown, Washington, D.C. Dumbarton House is to be the host site for an important upcoming public service opportunity: An American Red Cross Blood Drive is set for Thursday, March 29, 2012, from two in the afternoon until eight in the evening in the museum's Belle Vue Room.



Historic Dumbarton House and the American Red Cross share a unique history of partnership. Dumbarton House became a Red Cross facility during World War II supporting the relief efforts of the Red Cross's D.C. Chapter from 1942 until 1945. Since 1928, Dumbarton House had been the headquarters for *The National*

Society of The Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA), an organization that to this day actively promotes our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational programs. The NSCDA had also opened their headquarters as a historic house museum in 1932, but with the outbreak of World War II the NSCDA recognized needs and opportunities to support local efforts.

Thus, Dumbarton House ceased operating as a museum in 1942, so that it could be transformed into a safe facility for the Red Cross with the house's first floor and basement used by volunteers who assisted American soldiers and citizens affected by the war overseas. Collections were removed, the basement was converted into a break room, and the hardwood floors were covered with a protective linoleum cover. Two rooms in Dumbarton House were used to hold classes for nutrition, first aid, and nurses' aid training. March 29th's blood drive commemorates the 70th anniversary of Dumbarton House's use by the American Red Cross.

The blood drive also marks the opening of the museum's newest exhibition "World War II at Home: The American Red Cross at Dumbarton House, 1942-1945." Objects relating to

the time the Red Cross occupied Dumbarton House will be featured in the exhibition, including historic photographs, a Red Cross uniform, and documents explaining the Red Cross's work at Dumbarton House. The exhibition will be available during visiting hours from March 29th through June 30th, 2012, Tuesdays through Sundays, eleven in the morning until three in the afternoon (last entry at two-forty-five).

The blood drive at Dumbarton House will produce at least thirty-two units of the one thousand units the Red Cross needs each day to assist patients with various needs. For example, a premature baby needs up to four units of blood, Dumbarton House's blood drive has the potential to help at least eight babies. All blood donors will receive a thank you gift from Dumbarton House along with a coupon for a free museum visit during regular visiting hours. Required reservations for donations made on March 29th at Dumbarton House must be made by registering [online](#) (NOTE: The Red Cross does require an account be created in order to register online), or by emailing Info@DumbartonHouse.org, or calling 202-337-2288. Appointments are available every 15 minutes from two in the afternoon until eight in the evening on Thursday, March 29th.

Dumbarton House is located in Georgetown at 2715 Q Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Limited free parking is available at the museum, and two-hour street parking is plentiful; the Dupont Circle metro station, Q Street side, is a 15-minute walk.

The Dumbarton House is a Federal period historic house museum, circa 1800, preserved to educate the public about life in Washington, D.C., during the early years of the Republic. Since 1928, Dumbarton House has been owned and maintained as headquarters for *The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America*, a women's organization that actively promotes our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects. The museum, open to the public in 1932, is today open for tours Tuesday through Sunday, eleven in the morning until three in the afternoon (last entry, two-forty-five). The museum hosts a year-round calendar of public events, lectures, concerts, balls, exhibitions, family activities, summer camps, and rental events. www.DumbartonHouse.org



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