



LIFE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION ABOUT BLOOD DONATION FOR ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

VOLUME X



Newlywed. Just two months after Thuy Tran’s spring wedding, she was diagnosed with aplastic anemia. The young bride received a double cord blood transplant, supported by countless blood and platelet transfusions. One year later, Thuy and her new husband took a long-overdue honeymoon to Las Vegas thanks to a skilled medical team and the many donors who made her lifesaving transfusions possible. ■

Rotary International Receives AABB Outstanding Achievement Award for Role in Blood Donation.

In recognition of the ongoing effort by Rotary clubs to increase the world’s blood supply through voluntary donation, Rotary International received the 2006 Outstanding Achievement Award from AABB, formerly the American Association of Blood Banks.



On behalf of the organization, Rotary International Director Barry Rassin accepted the award (*above right*), which is given annually to one organization for “embracing the mission of blood donation and for its instrumental role in helping to provide safe blood in communities around the world.”

Recent research indicates local Rotary campaigns add an estimated 817,000 units per year to the world’s blood supply. “It is wonderful to see recognition for the work Rotary clubs do around the world to save lives by collecting blood,” says Rassin.

AABB is an international, not-for-profit association for the advancement of science and the practice of transfusion medicine and related therapies. Its membership consists of about 1800 institutions and individuals in all 50 U.S. states and 80 countries. ■

60%
Of Rotary Districts
have clubs hosting
blood drives

Providing
817,000
Units per year

North Texas Districts Hit the 50K Mark. Since beginning the Governors’ Challenge blood drives in 1996, North Texas Rotary clubs in District 5790 and 5810 have collected more than 50 thousand units of lifesaving blood. The success of these drives has marked North Texas as the epicenter for international Rotary-led blood collection activities. Over 100 Rotary clubs throughout North Texas work in partnerships with community blood centers hosting blood drives and helping to elevate awareness of the critical role blood availability plays in healthcare today. ■

Local Governors’ Challenge Committee members
Please insert local committee members including title, telephone and email.

F A Q S

QUESTION: Why do I have to fill out that long health history questionnaire every time I donate?

ANSWER: The Food and Drug Administration requires that all blood centers ask donors screening questions before every donation to ensure the safest possible blood supply.

QUESTION: How much blood do I have in my body?

ANSWER: A human body contains approximately 10 to 12 pints of blood. When you donate whole blood, approximately one pint (about one pound) is taken. ■

MAKE BLOOD DONATION A PRIORITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

There's one holiday tradition that blood centers across the nation try to avoid each year. It's the traditional blood supply slump that typically occurs during the busy holiday season.

The decline in blood donations is attributed to several factors, the most obvious being that the holidays are a busier time of year for most people. Weekends are fuller, "to-do" lists seem longer and blood donation is not typically at the top of those lists. During the holidays it takes an extra effort to make time for giving blood.

It's also flu season, which can drastically reduce a blood center's usual pool of donors. Routine blood donors who are experiencing flu symptoms or recovering from flu are not eligible to donate.

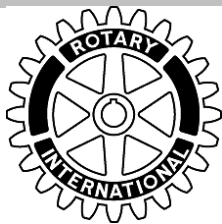
To compensate for the traditional decline, blood centers prepare with special blood drives and community awareness campaigns aimed at educating and encouraging potential donors to give the greatest holiday gift – the gift of life. ■

five days is the longest a unit of platelets can be safely stored outside the body.

42 days is the longest a unit of blood can be safely stored.

38,000 pints of donated blood are used each day in the United States.

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