

## SUMMER 2026 EDITION

### The Northern California Community Blood Bank is celebrating 75 years!

There is something truly special about looking back at 75 years of the Northern California Community Blood Bank's history. What began as a small community effort has grown into a lifesaving organization that has served generations throughout our region. Every blood donation, every volunteer, every sponsor, and every community partner has helped shape the incredible legacy we celebrate today.

As we've reflected on our history, one thing has become abundantly clear: our mission has always been about people. It's about neighbors helping neighbors. It's about ensuring that when someone experiences trauma, faces cancer treatment, welcomes a premature baby, or undergoes major surgery, lifesaving blood is there when it's needed most. That mission goes hand in hand with something equally important: community relationships. Our work simply would not be possible without the partnership and support of our local businesses, organizations, schools, civic groups, and community members who sponsor blood drives, host events, and champion our cause. Every successful blood drive is a reflection of a community coming together to ensure lifesaving blood is available for friends and loved ones. For 75 years, our community has shown what it means to care for one another. Together, we've built something extraordinary, and together we'll continue to save lives for generations to come. Thank you to every donor, volunteer, sponsor, and supporter who has been part of our story. Here's to the next 75 years of serving Northern California, one donation, one partnership, and one life saved at a time.



### Greater Eureka Chamber Mixer

We recently partnered with the Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce to host the June mixer which was co-hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Henderson Center, this event brought together the people and organizations whose unwavering support has helped shape the blood bank's legacy over the past seven and a half decades.

Guests were immediately transported back to 1951, the year we were founded, thanks to an impressive display of beautifully restored classic automobiles provided by Humboldt Classics.

Surrounded by vintage vehicles, nostalgic décor, and the sounds of the 50's, attendees experienced a celebration that honored both the blood bank's rich history and the remarkable community that has stood behind it since the very beginning.

The evening featured delicious food, lively conversation, and meaningful opportunities to connect all while reflecting on the organization's extraordinary journey. Historical displays and memorabilia showcased many of the milestones that have defined the blood bank's 75-year history.

## **Taking it back to 1951**

Many people may not know our history and the importance of having a local blood bank. Especially here in Humboldt, a more rural area, having immediate access to blood is critical. Instead of relying on a blood center five hours away, our donors are directly saving the lives of their neighbors, friends, and loved ones right here in our own community.

The story of our blood bank began in 1949 when the Exalted Ruler of the Eureka Elks Lodge, Carl Hansen, overheard local physicians discussing a serious problem. Blood being shipped to Eureka by Greyhound bus from Santa Rosa often arrived unusable, with nearly half of it spoiled before reaching local hospitals.

Determined to find a solution, Hansen organized a phone bank of Elks members who could be called upon when blood was urgently needed. Donors would go directly to the hospital to provide fresh blood for patients.

At that time, obtaining blood in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties was a complicated and time-consuming process. Donor lists were organized by blood type, and because blood could not be stored locally, donors often had to wait by the telephone during surgeries in case their blood was needed. Local physicians personally took turns drawing blood for transfusions.

Recognizing that this system was inadequate for the growing needs of the community, local physicians approached the Eureka Elks Lodge for help. Under Carl Hansen's leadership, the Elks raised the funds necessary to establish the Humboldt Del Norte Blood Bank.

Soon afterward, local physicians Shiras Jarvis, M.D., Phillip Dohn, M.D., Stanwood Schmidt, M.D., and George Watson, M.D., joined together to create a community blood bank that would serve the region's needs.

The original blood bank was incorporated in 1951 and operated from the Lloyd Building on 5th Street in Eureka, a building that no longer exists today.

In 1959, the first dedicated blood bank facility was built. At the time, the organization had just four employees, performed only two laboratory tests, and collected approximately 2,000 pints of blood annually.

As the region grew and medical care expanded, so did the demand for a reliable local blood supply. After many years in the original facility, the current blood bank building was constructed in 1994 to meet the community's increasing needs. When the organization moved into its current home at 2524 Harrison Avenue, it had grown to 25 employees, supported by dozens of volunteers, and was collecting approximately 10,000 units of blood each year. Local hospitals and physicians were performing more procedures close to home rather than referring patients outside the area, making a dependable blood supply more important than ever.

The new facility provided space for additional apheresis equipment, centrifuges, freezers, and expanded laboratory operations. For the first time, the blood bank had the capacity to collect, test, process, store, and distribute blood products all under one roof.

Today, the Northern California Community Blood Bank employs approximately 50 dedicated staff members. Our team includes registered nurses, donor care specialists, recruiters, clinical laboratory scientists, laboratory assistants, quality assurance professionals, information technology specialists, shipping and distribution staff, human resources personnel, administrative staff, and accountants.

Together, we carry out the mission that began more than 75 years ago: to provide a safe and adequate blood supply for the patients, physicians, and hospitals of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Every donation, every department, and every employee plays a vital role in ensuring that lifesaving blood is available when our community needs it most. What began as a group of community leaders solving a local problem has grown into an organization that impacts thousands of lives each year—neighbors helping neighbors, just as Carl Hansen and the Eureka Elks envisioned in 1949.



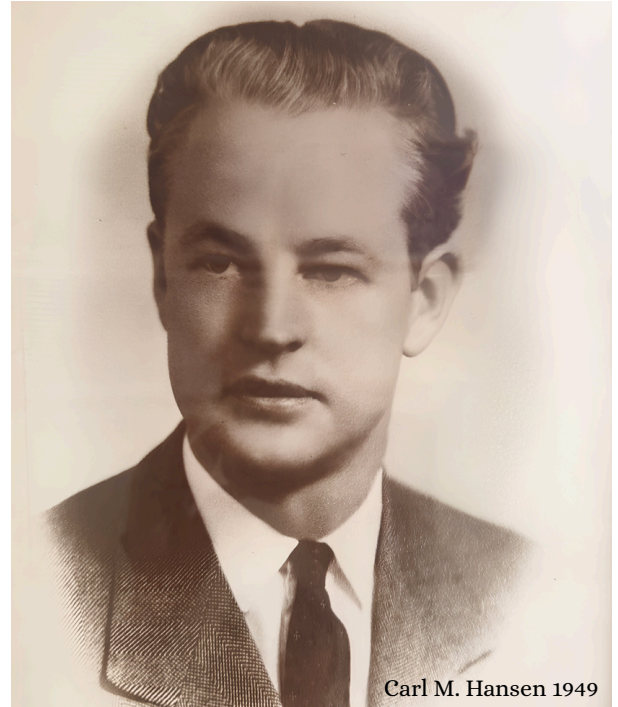


## **The Eureka Elks Lodge Celebrates 125 Year Anniversary**

For 125 years, the Eureka Elks Lodge has upheld the mission of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Rooted in charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity, they have served others through fellowship, patriotism, and programs centered on generosity and kindness. Since its founding in 1901, the Lodge has brought people together with a shared commitment to giving back, supporting local causes, and strengthening Humboldt County.

While attending this year's anniversary celebration, I had the opportunity to meet a young member involved in the Antlers program, the Elks' youth leadership and service group. Antlers give young people a chance to step into community service, participate in projects like food drives and local events, and gain hands-on leadership experience by helping plan activities and run meetings. More than anything, it helps build confidence, responsibility, and a lasting sense of civic pride. Meeting a young person already carrying forward that spirit of service was a powerful reminder that the Eureka Elk's Lodge is not only rooted in its past but actively growing through the next generation.

Reaching 125 years is more than a milestone, it reflects a deep and enduring commitment to service that has stood the test of time. Congratulations to every past and present member of the Eureka Elks Lodge for 125 years, and to the continued legacy still being built for future generations.



Carl M. Hansen 1949

## **The Gem that is Lynn McKenna**

This isn't the first time I've written about the incredible woman on the right in this photo, and I know it won't be the last. I had the pleasure of spending the day with Lynn McKenna while celebrating the Eureka Elks Lodge's 125th Anniversary, and once again I was reminded just how much one person can give to their community.

For decades, Lynn has been making Humboldt County a better place. Whether she's supporting the California Retired Teachers Association, raising funds for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, volunteering with the Redwood Coast Music Festival, giving her time to Humboldt Sponsors and the Eureka Elks Lodge, championing blood donation at the Northern California Community Blood Bank, or lending a hand to countless other organizations, she shows up with compassion, generosity, and an unwavering commitment to serving others. People like Lynn prove that community isn't built by grand gestures. It's built by individuals who choose, time and time again, to prioritize civic service. Thank you, Lynn, for the countless lives you've touched and for making Humboldt County a better, stronger community.



## Recent BERC Activation Update

I wish we didn't have to write another article about our blood bank being activated by BERC, but once again we find ourselves responding in the aftermath of tragedy and sadly, this marks our second consecutive BERC activation supporting communities in Texas. Each activation is a reminder of why this system matters and why, even in the hardest moments, our community and donors continue to make a vital impact in the lives of people they will likely never meet.

This past June, the Blood Emergency Readiness Corps (BERC), activated its emergency response system, as member on rotation at this time, the Northern California Community Blood Bank was activated to support a coordinated national response to the mass transfusion emergency in Midland Texas. BERC, a nationwide partnership of blood centers that work together to ensure lifesaving blood products can be quickly shared and delivered wherever they are needed most during emergencies. The Midland, Texas mass shooting on June 12, 2026, left a community shaken and families forever changed. The violence unfolded in an industrial area of the city, where gunfire resulted in one life lost and at least ten others injured, some critically, before the suspect was later found dead inside a nearby building following a law enforcement response. In the minutes and hours that followed, first responders and hospitals across the region moved quickly to care for the wounded, many of whom required urgent surgery and lifesaving blood transfusions. Our hearts are with the victims, their families, and the Midland, Texas community.

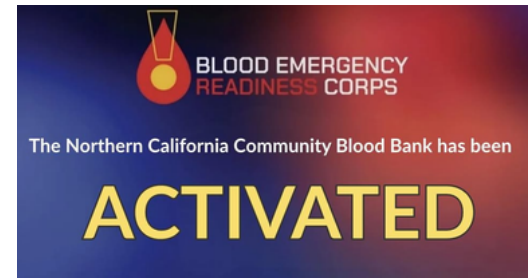
Emergencies like this can create a sudden, significant need for blood products, especially O-negative blood. Type O- blood is often prioritized in trauma care because it can be transfused when a patient's blood type is unknown. This rapid response collaboration helps prevent critical shortages at hospitals facing an immediate crisis. This kind of real-time coordination is essential to maintaining both emergency readiness and everyday patient care across the country.

A single donation collected in Northern California can travel far beyond our community and directly support patients in moments of great need. We are deeply grateful to our donors whose generosity makes this work possible. Every donation helps ensure blood is available not only for planned care, but also for the unexpected moments when it matters most.

While disasters often remind us of the importance of blood donation, hospitals need blood every single day. In fact, someone in the United States needs blood or platelets about every two seconds. Car accident victims, patients battling cancer, individuals with sickle cell disease, mothers experiencing childbirth complications, premature babies in neonatal intensive care units, and patients undergoing organ transplants or emergency surgeries all depend on a reliable blood supply.

Red blood cells can only be stored for up to 42 days, while platelets have a shelf life of just five to seven days. Because blood products expire quickly, they can't be stockpiled indefinitely. That's why a consistent stream of volunteer donors is essential every day of the year, not just during emergencies.

Despite incredible advances in medicine, scientists still cannot manufacture blood that performs all the lifesaving functions of donated blood. Every transfusion depends on the generosity of volunteer donors. That's why each donation matters far beyond the day it is given. It becomes a vital link in a chain of care that reaches patients in moments when they have no time to wait.

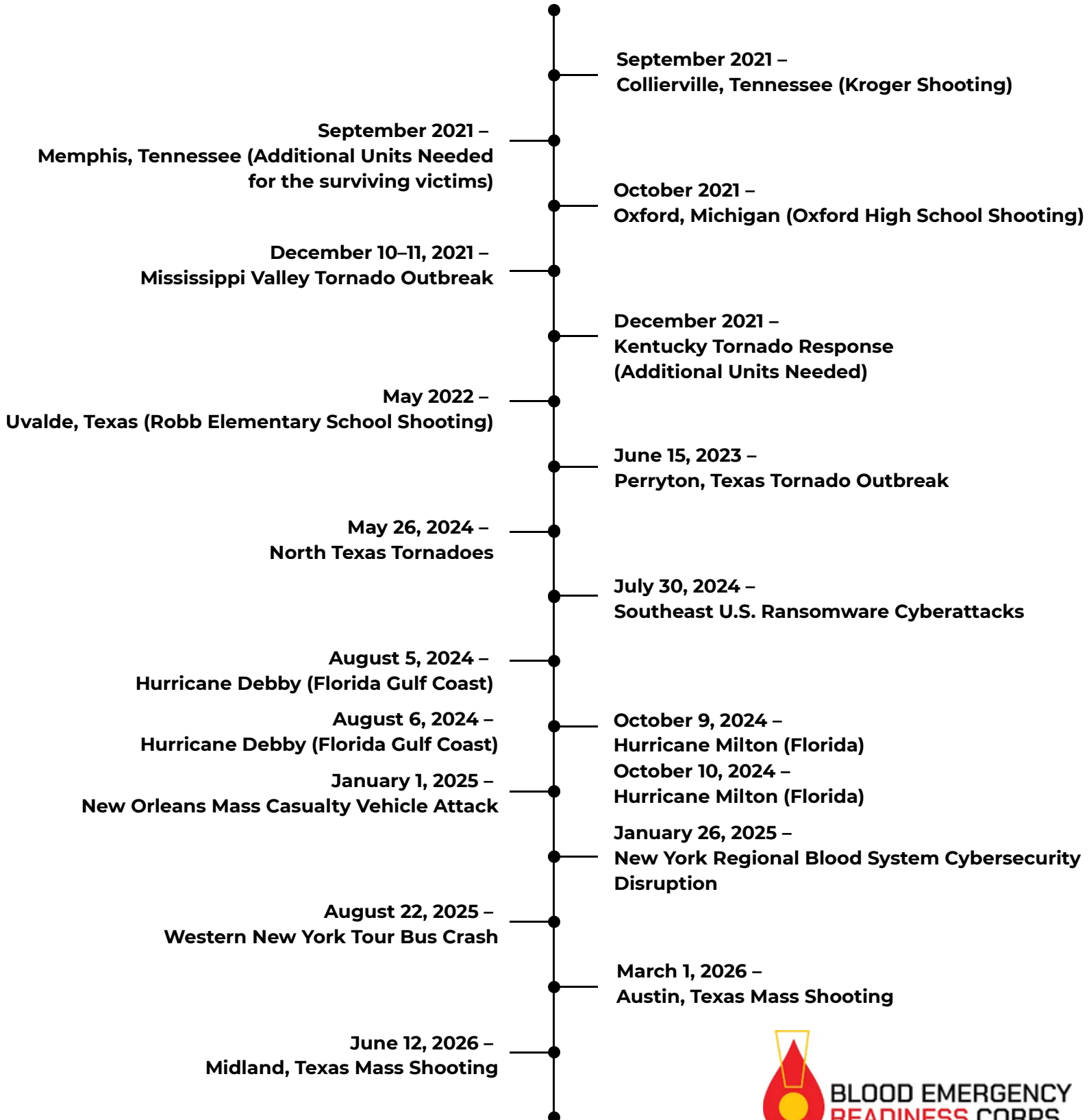




## BERC Activation Timeline

When disaster strikes, the Blood Emergency Readiness Corps responds. Prepared today. Saving lives tomorrow. Committed to joining together to prepare for mass transfusion disasters, without delay or uncertainty.

### 2021 — Program Launch Year



## From Eureka to Nigeria: Donated Bloodmobile Continues to Save Lives

Sometimes, local efforts create ripples that are felt across the globe. We recently received an inspiring update from Port Harcourt, Nigeria, reminding us of the profound international impact our community has made on transfusion safety. Back in 2019, our blood center in Eureka joined forces with Safe Blood for Africa, an initiative dedicated to improving the safety and availability of blood transfusions in low and middle-income countries. Alongside other blood centers, ABC and BCA members, and local Rotary Clubs, we helped fundraise and secure a fully equipped bloodmobile for use in Nigeria. The collaboration went far beyond fundraising for the vehicle itself. We had the unique opportunity to host a group of Nigerian blood bankers and physicians right here in Eureka for specialized training, and a few members of our own staff traveled to Lagos to continue the educational exchange.

When the bloodmobile arrived in Nigeria, it was received by the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, a highly decorated chapter in Rotary District 9141 known for its award-winning community projects. This project was championed by Olayinka Hakeem "Yinka" Babalola, a member of the Trans Amadi club who served as Safe Blood Africa's primary contact and personally coordinated the bloodmobile's shipment. Today, we are incredibly proud to note that Yinka is serving as this year's Rotary International President.

To ensure the bloodmobile's longevity and maximize its reach, the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi recently made a strategic move. Coinciding with the UN's World Blood Donor Day, Club President Ben Okorokwo announced they had donated the bloodmobile to the Armed Forces Blood Centre at the Military Hospital in Port Harcourt. Because the Armed Forces have the robust infrastructure required to maintain the unit long-term, they are uniquely positioned to keep it on the road. Furthermore, they have committed to sharing the collected blood with civilian hospitals across the country. While the military has given the bloodmobile a fresh coat of paint, the back of the vehicle still proudly displays the names of the individual blood centers, Rotary Clubs, and businesses that originally funded the project.

It is remarkable to think that our little blood center has made such a tangible contribution to international healthcare.

Thousands of life-saving blood donations have already been collected aboard this Nigerian bloodmobile. This success sits proudly alongside our other international efforts, which have included providing training, consultation, and equipment to help develop safe blood supplies in Ukraine and Moldova.

To all the individuals, Rotary members, and partners who worked together to make this vision a reality, we thank you. Your support has built something truly sustainable, and your generosity continues to save lives thousands of miles away.

Arrival of bloodmobile at Port Harcourt, Nigeria





## Community Impact Scholarship

On behalf of the Northern California Community Blood Bank, we are proud to award our 2026 Community Impact Scholarships to Lucy Dieker of Arcata High School, Aurora Mitchell of Del Norte High School, and Eliana Sellars of St. Bernard's Academy.

These outstanding students have demonstrated exceptional leadership, academic excellence, and a deep commitment to serving their communities. Through volunteerism, school involvement, and countless acts of service, they have each made a meaningful impact on the lives of others and exemplify the values this scholarship was created to recognize.

We are honored to support their future endeavors with a \$1,000 scholarship and look forward to seeing all they accomplish as they continue their educational journeys and pursue their career goals.

No matter where life takes them, we hope they always remember that Humboldt is home. These young women have bright futures ahead, and our community will be fortunate if, one day, they return as leaders, professionals, and changemakers helping to strengthen the place that helped shape them.

Please join us in congratulating Lucy, Aurora, and Eliana on this well-deserved achievement.

## Our 2026 Recipients

### Aurora Mitchell- Del Norte High School

Aurora has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to helping others through a wide range of volunteer activities. She has assisted with children's hearing and vision clinics, vaccine clinics, healthcare education presentations, community fundraisers, and her high school's winter blood drive. She also serves as a certified youth soccer referee and volunteers as a peer mentor with a local Behavior Analysis company supporting children and adults with special needs.

In addition to her extensive community service, Aurora is deeply involved in school and extracurricular activities. She participates in the Medical Sciences Club, Interact Club, Asian American Club, and local youth soccer programs. As a four-year member of Del Norte High School's varsity soccer team and a three-year team captain, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment, and teamwork. She has also competed in track and field throughout high school and will continue her passion for soccer at the collegiate level as a member of the College of the Redwoods women's soccer team.

Academically, Aurora has excelled throughout her educational journey, maintaining a GPA of 4.0 or higher in both high school

and dual-enrollment college courses. Aurora's future goals reflect her passion for healthcare and service. She is currently completing prerequisites for the nursing program at College of the Redwoods and plans to earn her Registered Nursing license before pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her long-term aspirations include advancing her education through graduate nursing studies.

Aurora embodies the spirit of the Community Impact Scholarship through her dedication to improving the lives of others, her academic excellence, and her unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in her community. We are proud to recognize her achievements and support her as she pursues a career in nursing and continued service to others.

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### **Lucy Dieker- Arcata High School**

Lucy has made a significant impact through her involvement in Interact Club, where she serves as Social Media Coordinator and Communications Officer. She played a key role in leading the “Coats for the Cold” initiative, partnering with over 18 schools and businesses to collect and distribute more than 1,600 new coats and 6,000 used coats to those in need, while also supporting ongoing service projects such as beach cleanups and Rotary activities.

She is also deeply involved in her church community, serving as President of the Young Women’s Class and working as a camp counselor for the past three years, where she mentors and supports younger students during weekly activities and summer camp programs.

Lucy has contributed to her school’s blood drives through promotional work, logistics, and donor support, and created an educational video to help first-time donors understand the donation process and recognize the importance of blood donation. Through her HESI health science experience, Lucy also visited the blood bank and gained firsthand insight into how blood is stored and handled, deepening her understanding of the critical importance and value of donated blood.

In addition to her service work, Lucy is actively engaged in multiple academic and leadership organizations, including National Honor Society, Medical Careers Club, Debate Club, Interact Club, and Economics Club. She currently serves as Associated Student Body Treasurer, reflecting her commitment to student leadership and service.

Her academic and extracurricular achievements include earning second place at the California Southern Financial Advisors Contest, where she and her team demonstrated perseverance, collaboration, and determination while securing funding and competing at a high level.

Lucy stated in her application, “To stay involved in my community, I remember the big picture. The motto of a club I am very active in (Interact) is ‘Service above Self.’ This mentality helps remind me to look outside myself and remain focused on others. As I keep this mindset, I have been able to stay involved and continue serving my community in meaningful ways.”

Lucy plans to attend a four-year university in California and pursue a degree in biology or a related science, with the long-term goal of becoming a Physician Assistant. Her dedication to service, leadership, and community impact make her a highly deserving recipient of this scholarship.



### **Eliana Sellars- St. Bernard’s Academy**

Our Donor Recruiter, Sierra, first met Eliana while speaking at a Soroptimist of Humboldt Bay meeting, where Eliana was being recognized. Following that meeting, Eliana asked how she could help with her schools blood drive. That simple conversation grew in to a partnership with the S Club and led to their schools largest blood drive to date.

Beyond her work with blood donation, Eliana has organized and participated in numerous community service projects, including preparing holiday meals for hundreds of individuals through the Betty Chin Center, supporting coat drives, fundraising for the Sequoia Humane Society, providing gift baskets for children in the pediatric ward, and collecting food donations for Food for People. She is also active in student government, National Honor Society, Science Bowl, Book Club, and athletics. Eliana’s passion for service is reflected in her own words: “First and foremost, I care about people and want to help the world be a better place for all of us. It’s part of how I was raised, to care for those around you.” This philosophy is evident in every aspect of her leadership and community involvement.

A standout student-athlete, Eliana earned league MVP honors in soccer and achieved her lifelong goal of being recruited to play collegiate soccer. This fall, she will attend Pacific University, where she plans to study engineering or biology while continuing her soccer career. Her commitment to service, leadership, and improving the lives of others makes her an exceptionally deserving recipient of the Community Impact Scholarship.





## Student Volunteer Spotlight

Since his sophomore year, Rolland has been a key part of hosting Ferndale High School's blood drives each year. Although he wasn't eligible to donate his first year, he stepped up to help plan, prepare and recruit donors for every drive. What makes Rolland's accomplishments even more impressive is that while most high schools have a team of student recruiters promoting their blood drives, Rolland took on that responsibility largely by himself. His dedication helped encourage students, staff, family and friends to become lifesavers. Last year, his efforts helped bring the High School Heroes Trophy to Ferndale. The High School Heroes Trophy is a friendly competition between local high schools to see which school can achieve the highest percentage of blood donors, making it a fair competition for schools of all sizes. Through his leadership, hard work and commitment to helping others, Rolland has made a lasting impact on his school and community.

**Attending:**  
**Cal Poly**  
**San Luis Obispo**

**Studying:**  
**Bio Resource**  
**Agriculture**  
**Engineering**



## Total Red Cords

162 graduating High School Seniors from Humboldt and Del Norte earned their Red Cords for the 2025-2026 school year. The Blood Donor Honor Cord recognizes our high school graduate's contribution and commitment to helping others. Recipients of this honor have donated blood at least three times during their high school career. By taking the time and making the effort to donate blood, these individuals demonstrate the character and selflessness that every college, employer, and community values and respects. Most importantly, they have saved lives. We have no doubt that the students who have earned this recognition will continue to accomplish great things and carry forward the spirit of compassion and service that has already made such a meaningful difference.

## St. Bernards Academy Senior Awards

Five students. Twenty-two pints donated. Up to 66 lives impacted. Congratulations to these five outstanding Senior Red Cord recipients from St. Bernard's Academy! Together, they have donated an incredible 22 pints of lifesaving blood, making a meaningful and lasting difference in our community through their generosity and commitment to helping others. This year was especially memorable, as St. Bernard's Academy hosted the largest blood drive in the school's history—a remarkable achievement that reflects the compassion, leadership, and community spirit of its students and staff. These five seniors played an important role in that success, leading by example and inspiring others to step forward and give. We are proud to recognize their dedication to saving lives and congratulate them on earning their Red Cords. Thank you for making a difference that will be felt far beyond graduation day.



## Hoopa Valley High School's New Teacher Sponsor

A big thank you to Jacob Morgan, temporary English teacher and long-term Independent Study teacher at Hoopa Valley High School, for serving as this year's teacher sponsor for our blood drive. His enthusiasm, positivity, and support helped make the event a success. Jacob is an outstanding addition to the Hoopa Valley High School community, and we hope to have him return as our teacher volunteer again in the Fall.



## Spring 2026 High School Blood Drives

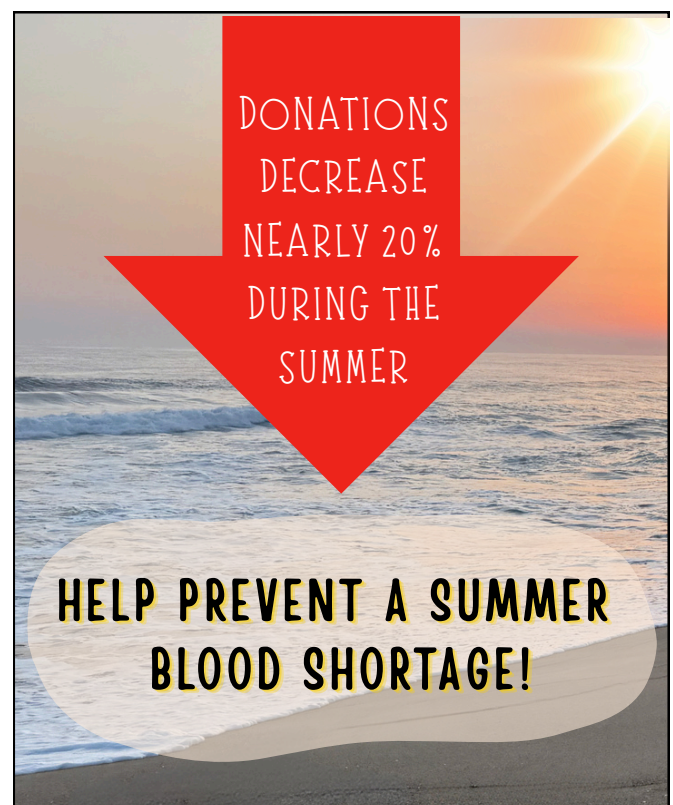


### Help Prevent A Summer Shortage

School may be out for summer, but the need for blood never takes a vacation. Each year, summer brings nearly a 20% decline in blood donations as vacations, travel, and busy schedules keep many regular donors away, creating one of the most challenging times of the year to maintain a stable blood supply. Meanwhile, the demand for blood remains constant, with local hospitals relying on lifesaving donations every day. Because blood cannot be manufactured and has a limited shelf life, consistent donations throughout the summer months are essential to ensuring patients have the blood they need when every second counts.

High school and college students play an especially important role during this time of year, as school breaks often interrupt traditional campus blood drives. However, students don't need to wait for a school hosted blood drive, eligible donors can give blood regularly at our blood center and on the bloodmobile at community blood drives throughout the summer.

If you're eligible to donate, now is the perfect time to roll up your sleeve and help keep our community's blood supply strong. Donate today and be the reason someone gets a second chance at life.





## Investing in the Future of Local Healthcare Through HESI

As communities across the country continue to face healthcare workforce shortages, programs that inspire and prepare the next generation of medical professionals have never been more important. One such program making a lasting impact in Humboldt County is the Health Careers Exploration Summer Institute (HESI). Offered free of charge through the Humboldt County Office of Education, HESI is a three-week summer program designed for local high school juniors and seniors who are interested in exploring careers in healthcare. Rather than simply learning from a textbook, students step into real healthcare settings, gaining firsthand experience alongside physicians, nurses, technicians, and other medical professionals. Throughout the program, participants receive exclusive job-shadowing opportunities in departments across local healthcare organizations, including Providence St. Joseph Hospital, Open Door Community Health Centers, and Redwood Memorial Hospital. In addition to invaluable career exposure, students have the opportunity to earn one unit of college credit through College of the Redwoods, giving them a head start on their educational journey. As Humboldt County continues to address the growing need for nurses, physicians, laboratory professionals, and other healthcare workers, Programs like HESI play a vital role in building a stronger, more sustainable local workforce. By investing in these young people now, our community is helping ensure that quality healthcare remains close to home for generations to come.



We were excited to welcome HESI students for an inside look at what it takes to safely collect, process, and provide lifesaving blood to our community. From donor care to the journey each blood donation takes, these future healthcare professionals gained valuable insight into an essential part of patient care that often happens behind the scenes. A special thank you to Tiffany Armstrong, Laura Smither, and Chrissy Genaro for sharing their knowledge, experience, and passion with the next generation of healthcare providers.



## 6th Annual Del Norte County Battle of the Badges

Crescent City Fire & Rescue hosted and WON the 6th Annual Del Norte County Battle of the Badges this past June. It's hard to compete when you have Bill and Becky Barlow behind the scenes, working their recruiting magic. Around here, it's clear, that it's hard to say no to the Barlows!

Josh Clemons with Del Norte Search & Rescue once again sponsored the event and also rolled up his sleeve to donate. Their tight-knit community of family and friends makes events like this so special, so much so, that at times Bill's respect and admiration for Josh leads to cheering Search and Rescue on rather than competing against them.

Next year's Del Norte Battle of the Badges will be held at the Del Norte Fairgrounds during the Heroes and Helpers event, with the potential to bring in an even greater number of lifesaving blood donations.

The cherry on top of the day was being surprised by our dear friend Bill Gillespie, currently filling in as Fire Chief while Crescent City Fire & Rescue actively recruits for the position. Thank you, Bill, for rolling up your sleeve, donating, and always answering the call to serve your community, he is a true Rotarian through and through.



## 4/20 in Humboldt

You smoke weed and thought you couldn't donate blood? It's a common misconception and one worth clearing up. Many people assume that marijuana use automatically disqualifies them from donating blood. In reality, that's not the case. Cannabis use alone does not prevent you from being a blood donor. What matters most is your overall health and safety at the time of donation, along with meeting standard eligibility guidelines. Blood donation centers focus on ensuring that donors are feeling well, honest during screening, and able to safely give blood. As long as you meet those criteria, you may still be eligible to donate, even if you use cannabis. Don't let outdated myths hold you back from making a difference. Blood donations are always in need, and each donation has the potential to save multiple lives. Don't let your life-saving impact go up in smoke, if you're feeling healthy and ready to help, consider rolling up your sleeve. A special thank you to Savannah Snow, owner of the Humboldt County Collective for sponsoring our bloodmobile this past 4/20, spoiling our donors with extra special treats, and helping spread the word throughout our local cannabis community.



## Blades and Blood

Buddy Blood Drop joined Humboldt Roller Derby this past April for a night of blood, sweat and beers! Frankie's New York Bagels hosted our mobile earlier that same day and donors were treated to a beer voucher for that evening bout. Thank you Matt Filar for capturing the fun!

Photo By: Matt Filar



## Amos is Officially Blood Bank Famous!

Life is pretty good when your human is Rob Ayers! Amos, is a proud rescue pup, recently adopted from the Humboldt County Animal Shelter and we couldn't be happier to welcome him to our blood bank family! Yesterday, Amos made his blood bank debut alongside, Rob, one of our most dedicated donors. Rob has reached the incredible 33 gallons milestone through 226 donations, making him a true local lifesaver.

Rob couldn't have picked a better day to bring Amos by the blood bank, we had the grill fired up for our big in-house blood drive with Providence St. Joseph's Hospital, so Amos was treated to a burger, of course. We're pretty sure he's going to expect a burger every time they pull into the blood bank parking lot now!



## Admin Aleighs' Tiny Tina

Australian Cattle Dog, Tina, enjoying the NCCBB's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary party. Tina is the fur-baby of the NCCBB's Administrative Specialist, Aleigh Sullivan. Teeny-Tina is the runt of the litter, coming in at a modest 32 pounds. She's a shy but sweet girl who looks great in hot pink!

## Four Legs, Full Swag

We also have a new piece of blood bank swag, proudly modeled by Amos and Tina, that we're especially excited about... dog bandanas! Our donors and blood bank family are huge dog and animal lovers, so we couldn't help but get something special for our four-legged friends, because heroes come in all shapes, sizes... and sometimes they have four paws.

## Siblings Who Save Lives

Siblings Isla, Sierra, and Isaac Buck recently came together to donate blood, showing that giving back truly runs in the family. Their sister Isla is a valued member of our Donor Services team and is also a proud one-gallon donor herself, continuing to lead by example both in and out of the workplace. It's always inspiring to see families unite around the mission of saving lives, one donation at a time.



## 20,000 Sticks for Mom

On June 17<sup>th</sup> our very own Michele, better known as "Mom" reached an incredible milestone: 20,000 donor sticks! For 22 years, Michele has served the blood bank as a dedicated nurse and to so many of our donors and staff, she's more than a nurse, she's family. Thank you, Mom, for every life you've helped save and congratulations on a legacy of 20,000 sticks!



## Farewell Gina!

Saying goodbye is never easy, and once again Providence has welcomed another incredible employee, friend, and fellow blood banker onto their team. Elaine hosted a wonderful pizza farewell party with homemade dough and all, sending her off in true blood bank style, with good food. Now, whenever we see something purple, or Halloween season begins we'll be reminded of her. Thanks for 7 years of hard work and dedication, we all wish you the best.



## **Our Wonderful Blood Bank Volunteers**

At Northern California Community Blood Bank, we are fortunate to have three amazing volunteers who rotate throughout the week, each coming in on different days to support our donors. After your donation, you may have spent some time in our canteen area and it is there, one of our wonderful volunteers can often be found offering a friendly presence, and making sure you are feeling well and comfortable as you recover from your donation. Their thoughtful attention and consistent care help make every visit a little easier and a lot more welcoming.



### **Kenna Reed**

Kenna began donating blood in 1987 and has since made an incredible 127 lifetime donations. She started volunteering as a way to help others, strengthen her community, and stay active, her commitment has only grown stronger over the decades. Beyond her own donations and volunteer service, Kenna has inspired countless others by encouraging family and friends to become blood donors, helping grow our lifesaving donor family. One of the things we admire most about Kenna is her remarkable determination. After experiencing significant vision loss, she never let it keep her from doing what she loves. We are incredibly grateful for the many years she has devoted to serving our community.



### **Allene Biasca**

Allene has been volunteering with the blood bank since 2012 with the simple goal of helping others and meeting new people. In addition to giving her time, she's also a proud 3-gallon blood donor, leading by example in more ways than one. She is always on the move, making sure everything stays tidy, clean, and organized here at our center. Even with her short stature, she's not afraid to pull out a ladder to get things done when needed. She is truly one of the sweetest and kindest people you'll meet, and her caring nature shines through in everything she does.



### **Marlene Mattison**

Marlene began volunteering in 2013, bringing with her a long history of dedication to blood donation that began in 1991. Since then, she has made an extraordinary impact, donating an impressive 38 gallons, with the majority of those donations being lifesaving platelets. Her decades-long commitment as both a donor and volunteer reflects an unwavering passion for helping others and strengthening the health of our community. Marleen's kindness and generosity have touched countless lives, both directly and indirectly. We are incredibly grateful for the many years she has devoted to our mission, and we are honored to recognize her for the lasting impact she continues to make every day.

## **Do you love the Northern California Community Blood Bank?**

If you've had a great experience with the Northern California Community Blood Bank, we'd truly appreciate it if you could take a moment to leave us a 5-star Google review. Your kind words help more people find us, build trust in our mission, and remind our entire team that the work they do every day makes a difference. Thank you for your support!





It's officially that time of year again and we couldn't be more excited! The Northern California Community Blood Bank's Annual Photo Contest is BACK and ready to showcase the beauty, creativity, and spirit of our incredible community. This is your moment to capture something meaningful, something stunning, something that tells a story and turn it into a feature that will be seen all year long. We're now accepting submissions from June 1st through July 24th, 2026, and we're inviting photographers of all levels to take part in this celebrated tradition. And don't forget you'll be joining past years' photo winners, whose images have helped bring our annual calendar to life. Submit your photo for a chance to be featured in our 2027 NCCBB Calendar and become part of a tradition that highlights the heart of our community, one image at a time. Grab your camera, share your vision, and let your work shine because this could be your year!

**Rules:**

- 1 photo per person
- Must be taken in Humboldt or Del Norte County
- Provide (1) 4x6 print and four copies of your photo
- Digital version or negative must be available for print
- No editing or enhancements
- Submit entry at the blood bank, a bloodmobile, or by email at [recruit@nccbb.org](mailto:recruit@nccbb.org)
- Photographer must be a blood donor or Blood Bank staff member
- Photos will not be returned
- Voting takes place July 27th - September 30th 2026

2026 Photo Contest Winner  
By Marlee Hall



2025 Photo Contest Winner  
By Larry Lag



2024 Photo Contest Winner  
By Greg Williston



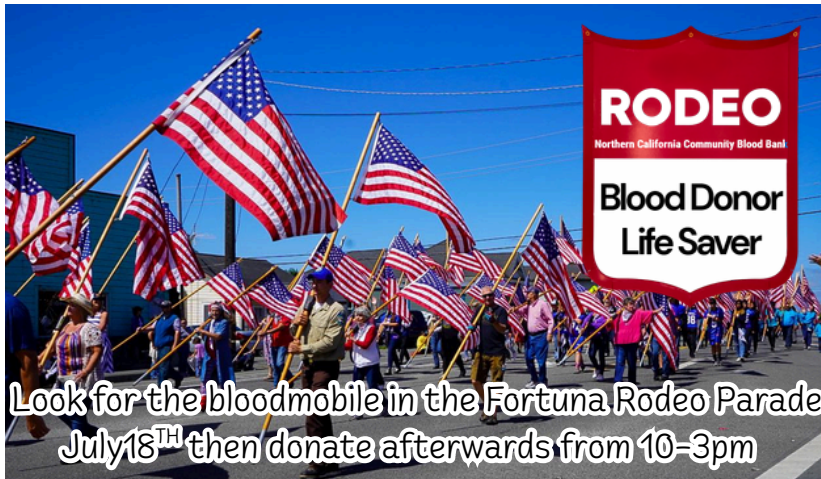
2023 Photo Contest Winner  
By Rodney Marchetti







**Join us for these great upcoming events!**



Look for the bloodmobile in the Fortuna Rodeo Parade July 18<sup>TH</sup> then donate afterwards from 10-3pm

**RIVERS BREWERY**  
 SMALL BATCH CRAFT BEER • RESTAURANT

**PINT FOR A PINT BLOOD DRIVE**

You will receive a voucher to redeem a free pint with donation.

**Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**12pm to 6pm**  
 1300 Central Ave,  
 McKinleyville

*Fortuna's*  
**First Friday**  
 Art - Music - Food - & Friends!

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
 SPONSORED BY  
**Recology**

Schedule an appointment

**Friday, July 10th**  
**4 PM - 8 PM**  
 1165 Main St, Fortuna

**Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Wildwood Days**

Save a life on the bloodmobile at Wildwood Day in Rio Dell!

**9th Annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive**  
**August 10th - 14th**

**THEY SAVE LIVES SO CAN YOU!**

**Jesus Rocks the Redwoods**  
**CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**AUGUST 8, 2026 11AM - 9PM**  
 ONE DAY ONE VOICE ONE GOD  
[www.JesusRocksTheRedwoods.com](http://www.JesusRocksTheRedwoods.com)

**Join us in the Redwoods to save lives!**

Compass CCU is hosting Blood Drives as a way to celebrate their 75 year anniversary!



**Arcata-**  
 Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>  
**Henderson Center-**  
 Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

**Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**4-7:30pm**

**Donate and Ferndale Fire will treat you to a steak dinner.**

**Cal Poly Humboldt.**  
**CR COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS**

**Campus Blood Drives RETURN the last week of August!**





## Blood Donor New Heights

Celebrating Community Members Reaching Blood Donation Milestones

### March New Heights

**3 Gallons**  
 Rene Imperiale  
 Tara Hutcheon  
 Lebn Leippe-Yudell  
**4 Gallons**  
 Gabriel Spetzler  
 Gary Peterson  
 Ryse Wade  
 Ryan Leary  
 Jesse Myles  
**5 Gallons**  
 Cindi Petrusha  
**6 Gallons**  
 Fred Benham  
**7 Gallons**  
 Miles Raymer  
 Mark Mueller  
 Carl McGahan  
 Karen Miller  
**8 Gallons**  
 Monica Topping-Adams  
 Mark McKenna  
 Mark Burdick  
**10 Gallons**  
 Kevin Metcalfe  
 Chrissy Genaro  
**11 Gallons**  
 Donna Clark  
 Zack Heap  
**12 Gallons**  
 Joshua Adams  
 David Dickinson  
**13 Gallons**  
 Toni Mendes  
 Jace Baldosser  
 Kai Heifetz  
**14 Gallons**  
 Terri Jorgensen  
 Jeff Keller  
**15 Gallons**  
 Catherine Lafleur  
**18 Gallons**  
 Roger Eckart  
 Kate Witthaus  
**22 Gallons**  
 Jeff Wahlund  
 Katie Benoit

**24 Gallons**  
 Steven Schlerf  
 David Swanson  
**26 Gallons**  
 Carol Nelson  
 Charles McCann  
**29 Gallons**  
 Elaine Shelley  
**31 Gallons**  
 Greg Williston  
**33 Gallons**  
 Robert Arnold  
**35 Gallons**  
 Wally Borgeson  
**57 Gallons**  
 Steven Block

### April New Heights

**3 Gallons**  
 Ronda Lovergine  
 Kelly Joyce  
 Terry Rowland  
 Ray Avenmarg  
**4 Gallons**  
 Daniel Hryniewicz  
 Olivia Alves  
 Thomas Schultz  
**5 Gallons**  
 Michael Alumbaugh  
 Pat Thomas  
 Eli Begley  
**6 Gallons**  
 Cara Smith  
 Erin Taylor  
 Troy Nicolini  
 Cindy Morris  
 Kathy Wilson  
**7 Gallons**  
 Mickey Torres  
 Josh Callahan  
 Al Upton  
**8 Gallons**  
 Melinda Rolff  
 Jashawn Fields JR  
**10 Gallons**  
 Walt Giacomini  
 Pete Jain  
 James Floss  
 Bob Kramer  
**11 Gallons**  
 David Dearing  
 Rise Rentz  
 Friday Ululani  
 Carol Stewart  
**13 Gallons**  
 Erik Helge Simonsen  
 Daniel Kepon  
 Ryan Wortman  
**15 Gallons**  
 Earl Jackson  
 Lynn Windham  
 Eric Nelson  
**19 Gallons**  
 Edwin Brown

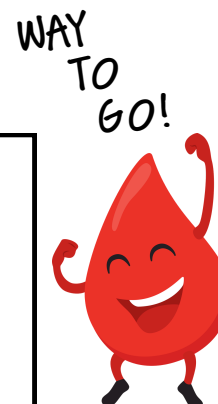
**20 Gallons**  
 Winston Papstein  
**21 Gallons**  
 Mark Ellis  
**24 Gallons**  
 Colin Hulse  
**25 Gallons**  
 Douglas Foster  
**29 Gallons**  
 Joseph Mrotzek  
**55 Gallons**  
 Patricia Hoy  
**57 Gallons**  
 Dal Lemmon  
**58 Gallons**  
 John Zeck  
**84 Gallons**  
 Bruce Stephens

### May New Heights

**3 Gallons**  
 Cybele Douglas-Poree  
 Jim Williams  
 Todd Phelps  
 Justin Pryor  
 David Pike  
 Trisha Riley  
**4 Gallons**  
 Karen Asbury  
**5 Gallons**  
 Jason Lewis  
 Joshua Rodrigues  
**6 Gallons**  
 Matt Filar  
**7 Gallons**  
 Kara Hughes  
 Jimmy Farradz  
 Anne Hartline  
 Mary Hope  
 Mark Chaet  
 Summer Schmidhuber  
 Mary Hull  
**8 Gallons**  
 Michele Abram  
 Mary Melvin  
**10 Gallons**  
 Gregg Clark  
**11 Gallons**  
 Roxanne Golich  
 Betsy Filippini  
 Bill Christen  
 John Haines  
**12 Gallons**  
 Ian Strobe  
 George Ziminsky  
 Colleen Sagaser  
**14 Gallons**  
 Paul O'Connor  
**15 Gallons**  
 Gary Manhart  
 Philip Cramer  
**17 Gallons**  
 Rusty Goodlive  
 Nancy Dean  
**18 Gallons**  
 Nicholas Bartlett  
**23 Gallons**  
 Cheyenne Eglian  
**27 Gallons**  
 Dyrck Hughes  
**31 Gallons**  
 Ralph Miller  
**33 Gallons**  
 Rob Ayers  
 Jack Justus  
**66 Gallons**  
 Dan Savage

### Congratulations to our blood bank employees who have recently reached new heights!

**18 Gallons-** Kate Witthaus, CEO  
**10 Gallons-** Chrissy Genaro, Donor Services Education and Quality Coordinator  
**8 Gallons-** Michele Abram, RN  
**7 Gallons-** Summer Schmidhuber, Donor Care Specialist  
**6 Gallons-** Kathy Wilson, Welcome Center Coordinator  
**3 Gallons-** Trisha Riley, Quality Assurance Specialist



## Blood Drive Sponsors

Partnering with incredible local businesses and organizations make it possible for us to be out and about in the community, reaching more donors and giving everyone in Humboldt and Del Norte the opportunity to donate and make a difference.

### March Sponsors

Benchmark Realty Group  
Cal Poly Humboldt  
Caltrans - Eureka  
Changing Tides Family Services  
College of the Redwoods  
Community First Credit Union - Garberville  
East High School  
Eureka High School  
Eureka Mall  
Eureka Natural Foods - McKinleyville  
Eureka Women's Club  
Ferndale High School  
George Petersen Insurance Agency  
Hoopa Valley Tribal Headquarters  
Hydesville Community Church  
McKinleyville High School  
McKinleyville Shopping Center  
North Coast Co-op  
Paul's Live from NY Pizza - Fortuna  
Pelican Bay State Prison  
PG&E  
Pierson Building Center  
Rays Food Place - Fortuna  
Redwood Memorial Hospital  
Safeway - Arcata  
Safeway - Crescent City  
Safeway - Fortuna  
Safeway - McKinleyville  
St Bernard High School  
Walmart - Crescent City  
Wildberries Market Place  
Zoe Barnum High School

### April Sponsors

Airport Days- Eureka  
Arcata Community Health Center  
Arcata Farmers Market  
Cal Poly Aviation Club  
Cal Poly Humboldt  
California Conservation Corps  
Eureka City Hall  
Coffee Break  
College of the Redwoods  
DHHS  
Eureka Community Health & Wellness Center  
Eureka Mall  
Eureka Natural Foods- McKinleyville  
Fortuna Community Health Center  
Fortuna High School  
Frankie's NY Bagels  
Humboldt Area Foundation  
Humboldt County Office of Ed  
Humboldt Roller Derby  
Mad River Community Hospital  
McKinleyville Shopping Center Rio Dell Community  
North Coast Co-op - Arcata  
Paul's Live from NY Pizza- Fortuna  
Rays Food Place - Garberville  
Rays Food Place- Fortuna  
Safeway - Crescent City  
Safeway-Fortuna  
Safeway - McKinleyville  
Six Rivers Brewery  
Sutter Coast Hospital  
The Campus Store  
The Humboldt County Collective  
Trinidad Civic Club  
United Indian Health Services  
Ferndale Veterans Memorial Hall  
Walmart- Crescent City  
Wildberries Market Place

### May Sponsors

A to Z Eye Center  
Arcata High School  
Cal Poly Humboldt  
Caltrans  
Crescent City Fire and Resue  
Del Norte Fair Grounds- Heros and Helpers  
Elks Lodge #652  
Eureka Mall  
Eureka Natural Foods - McKinleyville  
Falafelove  
Farmers Insurance - Arcata  
Ferndale High School  
Fieldbrook Fire Dept  
McKinleyville Shopping Plaza  
Mother's Day Market- Fortuna  
Old Town Eureka  
Oyster Festival  
Pelican Bay State Prison  
Pierson Building Center  
Premier Financial Group  
Rays Food Place - Fortuna  
Rays Food Place - Garberville  
Rio Dell Community Resource Center  
Safeway - Arcata  
Safeway - Crescent City  
Safeway - Fortuna  
Safeway - McKinleyville  
Shop Smart - Redway  
South Fork High  
Wildberries Market Place

