

## Battle of the Hospitals 2026

This past June, local healthcare heroes competed in a friendly competition during our 2nd Annual Battle of the Hospitals blood drive. We are thrilled to announce that across all participating locations, an incredible 170 people showed up to donate, in just one week! While Providence St. Joseph's Hospital saw the highest absolute total, SoHum Health claimed this year's top honor by securing the highest overall participation rate, with an incredible 17% of their eligible community turning out to donate.

The traveling trophy recently logged some miles along the coast! It made its way south along Highway 101, moving from last year's champions at Sutter Coast Hospital in Crescent City to its new home with Chelsea Brown's victorious team at SoHum Health in Garberville.

A massive thank you to all the hospital teams, organizers, and generous donors who showed up to make this year's drive such a life-saving success. See you next summer for the rematch!



## Ferndale Shows Up Big: Highest Blood Drive Turnout Since 2014

The spirit of community was on full display in Ferndale recently, as locals gathered at the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department for one of our most successful blood drives in years. We welcomed 50 donors, including 7 first-time donors, and collected 42 units of lifesaving blood. This marks our highest turnout at the FVFD since 2014!

The enthusiastic response kept our bloodmobile team on their toes but the atmosphere outside was nothing short of inspiring. Neighbors caught up, friends shared stories, and the community came together.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department for hosting, as well as our amazing sponsor, Daniel Del Biaggio. We also extend our gratitude to every volunteer who cooked, served meals, and stayed late into the evening to make sure all of our donors were taken care of. Thank you, Ferndale, for showing what true community support looks like!



## Donor Spotlight

We recently celebrated LeRoy Murrell reaching an incredible 117 gallon donation. A milestone like 117 gallons represents decades of generosity, unwavering commitment, and countless lives impacted. Thank you, LeRoy, for your extraordinary dedication. Making the day even more special, LeRoy's platelet donation, alongside Greg Williston's, were sent to a children's hospital, where young patients with their matching blood type are facing some of life's toughest battles. We also celebrated Cathy Canepa, the very first donor to fill an entire Platelet Perks punch card! In recognition of her continued commitment to platelet donation, Cathy received a gift card to Ramone's Bakery. We hope you enjoy your well-deserved treat, you've certainly earned it!



## SDA's 50th Redwood Camp Meeting Blood Drive

Early in the morning, on the same day I sat down to write about our annual blood drive at Redwood Camp Meeting, I found myself posting a plea on social media for an urgent need in O+ donations. It's a disappointing but predictable reality that every summer, blood donations drop just as the need for blood products spikes. That is exactly what makes the timing of this drive and the generosity of these campers so deeply special.

Since 1987, the Seventh-Day Adventist churches of the North Coast have gathered thousands of people in the redwoods for this summer camp. Somewhere along the way, donating blood became one of the camp's most cherished traditions. In fact, over the last 40 years, these incredible campers have donated more than 5,000 units of blood to help patients across our region.

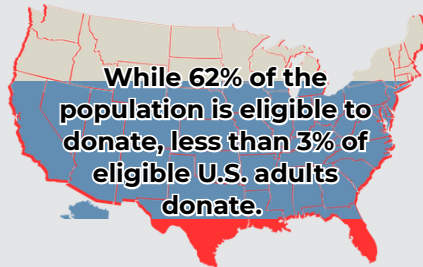
We truly look forward to seeing their familiar faces every year. Over the decades, these connections have grown and are a highlight of this partnership, right alongside with Joe Tweedy's legendary honey and that ice cold apple juice our staff loves so much! A massive thank you to the donors who keep this tradition alive and step up right when our community needs it most.

## By the Numbers: The Impact of Every Drop

The appeals for blood donations may seem unrelenting but the need for blood products doesn't stop. Blood is in constant demand because it is used daily for: Surgeries, traumatic injuries, chronic illnesses- like cancer, and someday **YOUR LIFE** may depend on it too.



Approximately 1 in 3 people will need a blood transfusion in their lifetime.



## The Hometown We Still Carry in Our Hearts

Some photos do more than capture a moment, they capture a feeling. Seeing this photo of Tiffany Armstrong "drawing blood" from the Hometown Buffet bee does exactly that. Featured 20 years ago in the Summer 2006 edition of the Good Deeds Gazette, it's a nostalgic throwback for so many locals who remember growing up in Humboldt County when the Bayshore Mall was full of life, with packed parking lots and bustling storefronts. Today, the mall tells a different story with its quiet hallways. Nostalgia has a way of reminding us that it was never just about Hometown Buffet or the mall itself, it was about who we were back then. For many of us, this picture captures the hometown we still carry in our hearts.

P.S. After drafting this, I was talking with my dad about the old Hometown Buffet days. He laughed and said, "The Bayshore Mall? I remember when that land was a sawmill with a big burner that lit up the night sky." That led to a conversation about the local timber industry and what it was like growing up in Eureka back then. It was a great reminder of just how much our community has changed. Long before the mall, that ground was tied to the lumber history that shaped Humboldt County. While that era was before my time, I'm grateful for the stories that keep those roots alive. I'm sure many of you remember what stood there long before the mall existed and I encourage you to keep sharing those memories. It's small reminders like this photo that sparks conversations and preserve the rich history of Humboldt for generations to come.

## The Bee is an O!



Tiffany gets ready to draw the Hometown Buffet Bee.

The Bee is a regular donor who often arrives with cookies!

**Rodeo Parade**

We were honored to participate in this years Fortuna Rodeo Parade, and what a beautiful, sunny day it was in the Friendly City! Joining our team was the ever-amazing Becky Giacomini, a 28-gallon blood donor, blood drive sponsor, and someone whose own life was saved thanks to volunteer donors. Anyone who knows Becky knows she's truly everywhere, doing everything to better our community. It was a privilege to have her walking alongside us!

We were also grateful to have a special visit from Rick Center. Rick and his wonderful wife Jo Anne, the 2026 Fortuna Rodeo Grand Marshals, are longtime champions of the Eel River Valley who have dedicated their time and hearts to making Fortuna a better place. Through their service and commitment, they have positively impacted countless lives. Rick has been a strong advocate for regional healthcare, helping guide efforts to expand and strengthen care for the Fortuna community. Since it was rodeo week, Buddy the Blood Drop traded in his usual look for some cowboy style. He dusted off his old boots, put on his blue jeans, and walked alongside the bloodmobile, tossing out candy, high-fiving parade goers, and taking photos with some young, future blood donors.

Seeing so many familiar faces in the crowd serves as a inspiring reminder that it takes local donors to save local lives. To every donor and supporter who helps keep our community's blood supply strong, we thank you. We are honored to provide lifesaving blood for our community and we couldn't do it without all of you.



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

**Fieldbrook Fire Department**  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
4:00 - 7:30pm  
This drive is open to the community!  
For questions about donating please call 707-443-8004

**BEAR RIVER**  
CASINO RESORT  
**HEALTH FAIR + BLOOD DRIVE EVENT**  
September 11<sup>th</sup>  
10 - 3 pm  
Bear River Recreation Center

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

**THEY SAVE LIVES**      **SO CAN YOU!**

**Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Wildwood Days**  
Save a life on the bloodmobile  
at Wildwood Day in Rio Dell!

**Cal Poly**  
**Humboldt.**  
**CR** **College of the Redwoods**  
**Campus Blood Drives RETURN**  
the last week of August!

## Donors Reaching New Heights in June

Celebrating Community Members Reaching Blood Donation Milestones

### 3 Gallons

Kenneth Fleck  
Keely Spalding  
Tavo Pena JR  
Denise Doyle-Schnacker

Bill Crowe  
Gerard Frankman  
Mike Hoffman

### 4 Gallons

Daniel Sedgwick  
Gina Bauer  
Kimber Laddipalli  
Pablo Campos  
Adam Summers

### 5 Gallons

Evan Gibbs

### 6 Gallons

Patric Esh

Arlo Gilbride  
John Nickelson  
Carrie Hurst

### 7 Gallons

Leanza Rose

### 9 Gallons

Sharon Tuttle  
Tony Titus

### 10 Gallons

Claudine Springman  
John Praytor

### 11 Gallons

Gregory Powell  
Scott Powell  
Heather Frey  
Kevin Low

### 13 Gallons

Larry Deridder  
Patrick Reed  
Russell Alber  
Jerry Basist

### 14 Gallons

Brian Pelley  
Rodney Ledbetter

### 17 Gallons

Butch Reeves

### 19 Gallons

Cathy Canepa

### 21 Gallons

Terry Raymer  
Rick Kimberling

### 23 Gallons

Jeffery Lindsey

### 31 Gallons

Kathleen Cross

### 39 Gallons

Jack Haase

### 40 Gallons

Malcolm Campbell

### 43 Gallons

Matthew Ziesak

### 44 Gallons

Todd Sobol

### 48 Gallons

Chuck Giannini

### 49 Gallons

George Frey



## June 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.

### Arcata Chamber of Commerce

### California Conservation Corps

### City Hall - Eureka

### College of the Redwoods

### Del Norte High School

### DHHS- Koster

### Dick Taylors Chocolates

### Eureka Natural Foods - McKinleyville

### George Petersen Ins Agency

### Hoop Valley High School

### Humboldt's Premium

### Hydesville Community Church

### Mad River Community Hospital

### McKinleyville Shopping Plaza

### North Coast Co-op - Arcata

### Oyster Fest

### PG&E Myrtle Ave

### Providence Redwood Memorial Hospital

### Providence St. Josephs Hospital

### Ray's Food Place - Fortuna

### Rays Food Place - Garberville

### Redwood Capital Bank

### Safeway - Arcata

### Safeway - Cerscent City

### Safeway - Fortuna

### Safeway - Mckinleyville

### SoHum Health

### Sutter Coast Hospital

### Trinity Diesel

### United Indian Health Services

### US Bank - Eureka

### VA Clinic

### Valley Pacific Petroleum

### Walmart - Crescent City

### Wildberries Marketplace

## Interested in hosting a blood drive?

We're looking for local businesses or organizations to host upcoming blood drives. With both in-house and mobile options available, our Donor Recruiters makes hosting simple. Reach out to us today and lets bring your team together to make a real impact in our community.

### In-House Blood Drive

Hosting an in-house blood drive is a fantastic way to raise awareness for your organization while welcoming new donors through our doors.

We host sponsored in-house blood drives every Wednesday at our blood center on Harrison Ave in Eureka. To make it a great experience, we stay open until 7:00pm and provide a light dinner for everyone! We encourage you to: showcase your organization by setting up a table in our welcome center to share your mission, and mingle with donors and staff. We also ask that you rally your network by inviting your staff, friends, family, and affiliates to donate together in a fun, relaxed environment. Together, we can turn your sponsorship into a powerful community effort and save lives.



### Mobile Blood Drive

Bringing a bloodmobile to you makes saving lives simple and convenient for everyone.

Sponsoring a mobile blood drive is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Set the date: Our Donor Recruiter will work with you to schedule the perfect time.

2. Choose the location: Mobiles need about 3-5 parking spaces (depending the bloodmobile chosen for your location) on level ground and a bathroom for our staff.

3. Promote the drive: Put up posters, email staff, and get people excited to save lives!

We will provide refreshments, but you are welcome to add special items, treats, or incentives.

