

8th Annual Humboldt County Battle of the Badges Blood Drive

The 8th Annual Battle of the Badges was a tremendous success, bringing in a record number of donations thanks to the incredible support of our local agencies. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office led the charge with an impressive 65 donors, earning first place. Close behind, the Eureka Police Department secured second place with 51 donors. Over the course of the week, our blood bank welcomed 232 donors (one more than last year) thanks to the combined efforts of Eureka Police Department, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, Arcata Fire District, Cal Fire, Fortuna Police Department, CHP - Humboldt, Humboldt County Probation, Ferndale Police, Humboldt Bay Fire, Arcata Police, Public Works, and California Fish and Wildlife. This remarkable boost in donations is especially critical during the summer months, when many of our regular donors are unavailable due to school breaks, vacations, and busy schedules. Your contributions ensure that life-saving blood remains stocked on hospital shelves until our campus blood drives resume in the fall. Special recognition goes to the Ferndale Police Department, which received the award for the highest participation percentage. Their department name is proudly displayed in our Welcome Center.

Our Battle of the Badges would be complete without a little friendly Tortoise and Hare competition! Fastest draw ("Hare"): Keith Altizer of Arcata Police, with an incredible time of 4 minutes and 22 seconds. Slowest draw ("Tortoise"): Rachel Sollom of EPD, with a patient 14 minutes and 48 seconds—well done, both of you! The Northern California Community Blood Bank thanks all donors, agencies, and volunteers who made the 2025 Battle of the Badges an outstanding success.



The Northern California Community Blood Bank was recently activated by the Blood Emergency Readiness Corps (BERC).

The devastating tour-bus crash on Interstate 90 near Pembroke, New York, east of Buffalo, created an urgent need for blood donations to treat injured passengers. Hospitals caring for victims drew heavily on local blood supplies, underscoring the ongoing need for donors. The crash occurred on August 22, 2025, when the bus reportedly lost control, entered the median, over-corrected, and ultimately overturned in a ditch. The impact was catastrophic. More than 50 passengers were on board at the time. Tragically, at least five adults lost their lives. Many others sustained serious injuries, including head trauma, broken bones, and other critical conditions. Some passengers were ejected from the vehicle, while others remained trapped inside the wreckage until emergency crews could reach them. Officials and hospital representatives stress that blood donations are vital at moments like these, when sudden tragedies put immense strain on the community's blood supply. In this time of urgent need, our blood bank was able to provide reserved units of blood to help meet the critical demand for life-saving donations. These units went directly to support in this tragedy, ensuring that hospitals had the resources they needed.



Updated- Our activation history with BERC :

08/22/25: Tour bus crash in upstate New York. The bus was carrying 52 passengers, resulting in many serious injuries to adults and children.

01/23/25: Due to severe snowstorms, blood donation efforts and hospital needs were significantly impacted. Much-needed blood supplies were sent to the LifeShare Blood Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, to help replenish their collections.

01/01/25: 15 people were killed and 35 were injured when a driver rammed a pickup truck and fired gunshots into a crowd during New Year's celebrations on Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

10/10/24: Hurricane Milton struck Florida's northern Gulf Coast- the storm packed dangerous Category 3 winds of 120 mph, knocking out power to millions of people in Florida, and causing at least two dozen deaths.

08/06/24: Occurring at the same time- Hurricane Debbie's destruction and One Blood's massive ransomware attack that affected over 250 hospitals in Florida.

06/16/23: A Destructive and deadly tornado in Perryton, TX., killed four people in the storm, and hundreds were injured.



**BLOOD EMERGENCY
READINESS CORPS**



And the winner is...

Thank you to all of our amazing donors and staff who participated in the Northern California Community Blood Bank's 2026 Calendar Photo Contest! We were thrilled to receive 25 creative and thoughtful entries that beautifully showcased our beautiful landscape. While every submission was wonderful, there can only be one winner. We are proud to announce that the winner of our 2026 Photo Contest is Marlee Hall! Marlee, a Donor Outreach Specialist, has been part of our team for the past two years. She is known for her friendly, can-do attitude and the enthusiasm she brings to her work every day. Marlee is not only an essential part of our recruitment department but also someone who is truly cherished by her team. Congratulations, Marlee, and thank you again to everyone who shared their creativity and passion with us through this contest.



If you are still receiving live calls from the blood bank, it's from a Donor Outreach Specialist, possibly including Marlee, the winner of the above photo contest. As part of our commitment to caring for our donors, we'd like to share a quick update on how follow-up calls work after your donation. If you donate at the blood bank, you will continue to receive a call from one of our staff members. We value these personal conversations because they give us the opportunity to thank you directly, address your questions, and connect with you one-on-one. If you donate at a bloodmobile, the call to let you know you're eligible will now come from our automated system. While these robocalls may sound a little different, they play an extremely important role in our ability to maintain a safe and reliable blood supply. These calls help us reach donors quickly and consistently, reminding you that you're eligible to give again, sharing important information about your donation locations, and most importantly, helping us ensure that every donation can be used for a patient in need. So, whether you hear from a live staff member or from our automated system, please know that every call is made with the same purpose: to thank you, to keep you informed, and to make sure your donation has the greatest impact possible.

Congratulations to Sutter Coast Hospital – 2025 Battle of the Hospitals Champion!

This past August marked the launch of our first annual Battle of the Hospitals, a friendly competition between Sutter Coast Hospital, Providence St. Joseph's Hospital, and Providence Redwood Memorial Hospital. We're thrilled to announce that Sutter Coast Hospital emerged as this year's winner!

A special thank-you goes to Michael Lane, CEO of Sutter Coast Hospital, whose enthusiasm and leadership made this event possible. Michael, a dedicated blood donor himself, regularly rolls up his sleeve to give the gift of life and hosts bloodmobiles every eight weeks at Sutter Coast. He also sponsors our popular Halloween blood drive with Bicoastal Media—and when looking for new ways to help, he proposed the idea for this very competition. We are deeply grateful for Michael's commitment and for every donor who participated in making this lifesaving event a success.

Sutter Coast Hospital is also celebrating major advancements in patient care by making two strategic investments to expand primary care and behavioral health services in Del Norte, helping bring high-quality care closer to some of Northern California's most remote and rural communities. Their new Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment and Healing (EmPATH) Unit began construction this past June. The EmPATH Unit is a 3,000-square-foot facility designed to serve children and adults experiencing acute psychiatric crises. The unit will feature a calming, therapeutic environment to help stabilize patients in a more appropriate setting and follow a nationally recognized care model known to reduce wait times and improve outcomes. Alongside these new services, Sutter Coast is refreshing its campus with a hospital remodel and a beautiful new mural to create a more welcoming space for patients and visitors.

These exciting projects reflect Sutter Coast Hospital's ongoing commitment to improving health care access and quality for our entire region.



LeRoy reached his 115th gallon milestone

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: year after year, one thing is guaranteed- you can count on LeRoy. LeRoy's dedication to saving lives by donating his blood is unmatched. On September 11th, LeRoy reached his 115th gallon milestone. This donation was dedicated to people close to his heart: "My donation marking 115 gallons is in remembrance of all the first responders, and my very special friend Martha Buss—my girlfriend for four years, who was also a volunteer at the Blood Bank," shared LeRoy. The Blood Bank encourages others to follow his example by making blood donation a regular habit. Every donation helps save lives, and LeRoy's decades-long commitment is a powerful reminder of the impact one person can make.

According to American Red Cross and AABB data, most U.S. Blood donors give about 1.6 times per year. In 2024, LeRoy donated 19 times in a single year. First-time donors were responsible for 26% of blood donations, and repeat donors accounted for 74%. Nationwide, blood donation is on the rise but it's our dedicated repeat donors, like LeRoy, who are driving this growth and ensuring a steady supply of lifesaving blood for patients in need.



Loleta Residents Give the Gift of Life at Jersey Scoops' First Blood Drive

Jersey Scoops in Loleta recently hosted its very first blood drive, bringing the community together for a lifesaving cause. In a sweet twist, every donor received a pint of ice cream in exchange for a pint of blood. The event drew 29 local residents, resulting in 25 units of blood collected. These donations will directly support local hospitals, helping patients in emergencies and scheduled treatments alike. The drive showcased how local businesses and community members can make a tangible difference. From a simple scoop of ice cream to the gift of life, the impact was clear: every donation counts. The blood bank extends its heartfelt thanks to Jersey Scoops and everyone who participated.



Donor, Employee, Pet and Sponsor Spotlight

Sponsor Spotlight: Marcus Gooch

On Father's Day in 2018, Marcus Gooch's life changed in an instant. While driving to work in Davis, California, he was involved in a serious accident that left him unconscious and internally bleeding for days. His recovery required multiple blood transfusions—gifts from generous donors he had never met. Thanks to those donations, Marcus was given the chance to heal, return to his family, and move forward with life. He often reflects on how the simple act of donating blood made the difference between life and death for him. Out of gratitude, Marcus has committed himself to giving blood whenever he can, ensuring others in need have the same chance at survival that he was given.

Now, Marcus, Manager of Lost Coast Brewery Pub and Café, is taking that commitment a step further. To honor the donors who saved his life and to inspire others to give, he is hosting a pint-for-pint blood drive. He invites friends, neighbors, and community members to join him in making a lifesaving difference. Thursday, October 16th from 12pm to 6pm.



Donor Spotlight: Julie Rausch

Julie made her very first blood donation at just 18 years old, alongside her older sister Jeanette. For the two sisters, it was a meaningful way to give back to their community together.

While attending Humboldt State University, Julie began donating on our bloodmobiles and quickly became a regular donor. With encouragement from one of our longtime apheresis recruiters, she began giving platelets—a specialized type of donation that is especially critical for patients undergoing cancer treatments, surgeries, or fighting life-threatening illnesses. Platelets are the tiny cells in our blood that help with clotting, and because they can only be stored for a few days, the need for regular donors like Julie is

constant. Thanks to her naturally generous platelet count, Julie has been able to make an extraordinary impact. To date, she has sat in the donor chair an incredible 125 times here at our center—most of those donations being platelets.

"I make it a part of my routine to be at the blood bank every couple of weeks," Julie shared. "I feel truly blessed to share my platelets with those in need."

Beyond donating, Julie pours her heart into her community as a dedicated teacher and passionate dog rescuer. Her kindness and commitment ripple far beyond our blood bank, making her a true inspiration to all who know her.

We are profoundly grateful to Julie for her steadfast generosity and the hope she continues to bring to patients and families in need.



Donor, Employee, Pet and Sponsor Spotlight Continued

Pet of the Month:

Olive the Turtle

Kate Witthaus was thrilled to nominate her red-eared slider, Olive the Turtle, for Pet of the Month. (Not to be confused with her dog, who is also named Olive.) At 18 years old, Olive has already lived quite the life. Olive even has a fun claim to fame—she appeared as an extra in the locally filmed 2024 movie *Sasquatch Sunset*, making her a true movie star. With her calm nature, quirky charm, and Hollywood background, the blood bank agrees that Olive was a standout choice for Pet of the Month. Olive may move slowly, but she has certainly made a big impression!



Employee Spotlight:

Michele – Our Beloved “Mom”

If you've ever walked into the blood bank and immediately heard the jingle of bells, chances are you've met Michele—affectionately known by everyone as “Mom.” For almost 22 years, Michele has been an anchor of our team, serving as a dedicated nurse and bringing wisdom, care, and a touch of whimsy to everything she does.

Known for her long hair, love of tie-dye, and signature accessories, Michele's vibrant personality lights up every room. Her compassion and willingness to share her knowledge make her a go-to colleague. Whether you have a tricky stick, a question, or need advice, she is there to help.

Michele's impact extends far beyond her colleagues. Our long-time blood donors have become like family to her, and she treats everyone who walks through our doors with the same compassionate dedication and care. We deeply appreciate everything she does and are so grateful she's an irreplaceable part of our team!



We're excited to share some wonderful news! Inspired by our incredible local high school students, who consistently go above and beyond in giving back to our community, we wanted to find a way to give something back to them. Out of that inspiration, our Community Impact Scholarship was created.

This scholarship is designed to recognize and support students who demonstrate leadership, compassion, and a commitment to making a difference. It's our way of honoring the next generation of changemakers who embody the same spirit of service and generosity that keeps our community strong.

We are thrilled to announce that applications for the Community Impact Scholarship are now officially open! See below for scholarship details.

Northern California Community Blood Bank Community Impact Scholarship Program

The Northern California Community Blood Bank was founded in 1951 to fill the need for a reliable, local blood supply. As an organization deeply rooted in community we want to recognize students that demonstrate exceptional commitment to service and have also managed to make a substantial impact through their actions. Our scholarship program aims to recognize these students with our community impact scholarship by distributing three \$1,000 scholarships annually to those pursuing post-secondary education.

Requirements:

- The scholarship program runs from the beginning of your high school's senior year until March 10th.
- To qualify, students must be graduating high school seniors in Humboldt or Del Norte Counties.
- To qualify, students must be enrolled or plan to enroll in a college, university, community college, trade school, or other post-high school educational facility or adult education program.
- To qualify, students must demonstrate volunteer involvement.
 - To meet this requirement, students may organize a blood drive, volunteer with a high school blood drive, volunteer with a community blood drive or at the Blood Bank, or plan and execute a school/community health education project related to blood donation or blood transfusion.
 - Other community health related volunteer work, such as at a hospital, will be considered.
 - Northern California Community Blood Bank can assist you with volunteering opportunities.
 - Northern California Community Blood Bank can provide free tools and resources to help you organize a successful blood drive, including social media images, educational flyers, and more. We are here to help you be successful!
- Blood Bank staff, friends, and family of staff are eligible to participate in the scholarship program if they meet all other requirements.

Not Required but Recommended:

- Donate blood at least 3 times by the end of senior year.
 - If your school's final blood drive of the year is after the scholarship submission deadline date, please note the date that you intend to make your 3rd donation.
- Recruit blood donors.
 - Provide the names of your donors for the Northern California Community Blood bank to verify.
 - Northern California Community Blood Bank can provide free tools and resources to help you organize a successful blood drive, including social media images, educational flyers, and more. We are here to help you be successful!

How to Apply:

- Download and complete the application, questionnaire, and authorization forms (if you require more space to complete questionnaire, please attach additional pages).
- Your questionnaire responses may be used on our website, in marketing materials, or on social media.
- Include a photograph of yourself. If you are awarded a scholarship, your photograph may be used on our website, in marketing materials, or on social media.
- Submit application and related documents by March 10th of senior year.
- Mail, email, or deliver application (email is preferred).

Northern California Community Blood Bank

Attention: Scholarship Program

2524 Harrison Avenue

Eureka, CA 95501

recruitment@nccbb.org

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship program, application, deadline, or wish to get volunteer information, please email recruitment@nccbb.org or call (707) 443-8004.

THE GOOD DEEDS GAZETTE

NCCBB.ORG | 2524 HARRISON AVE EUREKA, CA | (707)-443-8004
SUMMER 2025 EDITION



Northern
California
Community
Blood Bank

New Heights-Plateaus

Celebrating Community Members Reaching Blood Donation Milestones

June

3 Gallons
Patric Esh
Walter Haynie
Zachary Owsley
4 Gallons
Fred Benham
Jillian Eymann
Kevin Farley
Andrea Johnson
Laura Zugzda
5 Gallons
Robert Bates
Diane Brown
Carrie Hurst
Robert Martinez
Karen Miller
Sheerah Moore
Brian Starks
6 Gallons
Carol Grimes
Jim Lund
Megan McVicar
7 Gallons
Mark Allen
8 Gallons
Marianne Beyerle
Howard Rockwood
9 Gallons
Chrissy Genaro
Mark Weston
10 Gallons
Wayne Blankinship
Roxanne Golich
James Kloss
Dan Plato
Ian Strobe
11 Gallons
Joshua Adams
Patty Andriese

Sharon Cole
Daniel Kepon
Karen Miclette
Duane Sands
12 Gallons
Noah Lurtz
14 Gallons
Carol Lyons
16 Gallons
Gwen Carlson
17 Gallons
Steven Abrams
Ed Laidlaw
21 Gallons
Cheyenne Eglian
23 Gallons
David Swanson
24 Gallons
Toshio Noguchi
25 Gallons
Judy Stapp
28 Gallons
Patrick Wagner
31 Gallons
Rob Ayers
34 Gallons
Patty Andriese
Alan McCann-
Sayles
41 Gallons
Karen Miclette
Matthew Ziesak
46 Gallons
Chuck Giannini
56 Gallons
David Lindberg
114 Gallons
LeRoy Murrell

July

3 Gallons
Matthew Diggins
Joanne McGarry
Alex Perry
Gary Sack
Nancy Sanders
Taryn Truesdell
4 Gallons
Jason Callender
Sharolyn Hutton
Jessica Lee
Loralee Malone
Jedediah Pinnell
5 Gallons
Susan Johnson
Jorey McComas
Nita Schwartz
Ginny Wozny
Daniel Zellman
6 Gallons
Eli Asarian
Jeannemari
Baker
David Goodwin
JR
Summer
Schmidhuber
Cliff Titus
7 Gallons
Jack Mattz
David Tuttle
8 Gallons
Mary Neal-
Norton
John Praytor
9 Gallons
Heather Bowen
Janet Foos
Heather Frey

Charlene Kave
Rodney Marchetti
Claudine
Springman
10 Gallons
Zack Heap
11 Gallons
Dan Doble
Donald Gomes
Erik Helge
Simonsen
12 Gallons
Paul O'Connor
Lyn Williams
14 Gallons
Corinna Kitchen
17 Gallons
Margaret Morris
20 Gallons
Rick Knapp
21 Gallons
George Wainwright
23 Gallons
Charlie Caldwell II
26 Gallons
Lindy Lentz
28 Gallons
Joseph Mrotzek
29 Gallons
Greg Williston
30 Gallons
Mark Neeson
33 Gallons
Tiffany Armstrong
53 Gallons
Patricia Hoy
58 Gallons
Gene Joyce

August

3 Gallons
Joyce Carter
Lorna Kidd
Diane Romberg
Gail Saunders
4 Gallons
Sophia Cooper
Evan Gibbs
Christine Gierek
Derek Glavich
Marisol Madriz
5 Gallons
Roxanne
Haatvedt
Anna-M aria
Kretzer
James Marsh
Nola Penna
Tyson Rien
Mike Wallace
6 Gallons
Shawn Isaacs
7 Gallons
Avishai Leibson
Mark Wetzel
8 Gallons
Armeda Reitzel
10 Gallons
Duane Lemley
Lauren Lynch
11 Gallons
Kathy Johanson
12 Gallons
Brian Ingram
Jack Nash
13 Gallons
Lorne Julien

14 Gallons
Earl Jackson
Max Rousselot
Kent
Vanvalkenburgh
15 Gallons
Larry Lanferman
Mark Megazzi
16 Gallons
Shannon Bailey
Robert Thoman
JR
20 Gallons
Mark Ellis
Glenn Roslosnik
27 Gallons
Dan Biesecker
32 Gallons
Robert Arnold
38 Gallons
Malcolm
Campbell
44 Gallons
John Christensen
82 Gallons
Bruce Stephens

Congratulations to our Blood Bank employees who have recently reached new heights!

9 Gallons- Chrissy Genaro, Donor Services Education and Quality Coordinator

6 Gallons- Summer Schmidhuber, Donor Care Specialist

5 Gallons- Anna-Maria Kretzer, Donor Care Specialist

Blood Drive Sponsors

Thank you to all our generous sponsors!

June

Cal Trans – Eureka
California Conservation Corps - Fortuna
Community First Credit Union
Del Norte High School
DHHS Pro Building
Elks Lodge
Eureka City Hall
Eureka Mall
Eureka Natural Foods - McKinleyville
Farmers Market - Arcata
Ferndale VFD
Fieldbrook VFD
George Petersen Ins
Gulfeagle Supply - Eureka
Hydesville Community Church
Mad River Community Hospital
Mary Dorman with State Farm Insurance
McKinleyville Shopping Center
Old Town Drive
Paul's Live From NY - Fortuna
Potter Real Estate
Ray's Food Place - Fortuna
Rio Dell Community Resource Center
Safeway - Arcata
Safeway - Crescent City
Safeway - McKinleyville
Social Services
Southern Humboldt Health
Trinidad Community
United Indian Healthcare
US Bank - Eureka
Walmart - Crescent City
Washington School
Wildberries Marketplace
Willow Creek Community

July

6 Rivers Brewery - McKinleyville
Alchemy Distillery - Arcata
Amelias Blood Drive
Compass Credit Union - Arcata
Compass Credit Union - Eureka
Co-Op - Arcata
Del Norte Health Fair
Del Norte Sherri
Dick Taylors Craft Chocolate
Eureka Community Heath & Wellness Center
Eureka Mall
Farmers Insurance - Arcata
Farmers Market - Arcata
Fortuna Community Health Center - Fortuna
Green Diamond Resource Company - Korb
High Line Nursery
Kiwanis
Mary Dorman with State Farm Insurance
McKinleyville Family Resource Center
McKinleyville Shopping Center Open
Door Community Health - Arcata
Pelican Bay State Prison
Pierson's Building Center
Rays Food Place - Fortuna
Rays Food Place - Garberville
Rite Aid - Eureka
Safeway - Arcata
Safeway - Crescent City
Safeway - Fortuna
Safeway - McKinleyville
SDA Camp - Redcrest
Walmart - Crescent City
Walmart - Eureka
Wildberries Market Place

August

Battle of the Badges
Battle of the Hospitals
Bear River Casino
Blue Lake Rancheria
Cal Poly Humboldt
California Conservation Corps - Fortuna
Caltrans - Eureka
College of the Redwoods
Department of Health and Human Services - Eureka
Eureka City Hall
Eureka Natural Food's – McKinleyville
Falafelove
Farmers Market - Arcata
Fieldbrook Fire Department
Humboldt County Office of Education
Luzmila's - McKinleyville
Mad River Community Hospital
Mad River Rotary
Mary Dorman with State Farm Insurance
McKinleyville - Shopping Center
Paul's Live from NY Pizza - Fortuna
Premier Financial Group - Eureka
Redwood Capital Bank - Eureka
Redwood Memorial Hospital
Rio Dell Community Resource Center
Rio Dell Police Department
Safeway – Arcata
Safeway - Crescent City
Safeway – Fortuna
Safeway - McKinleyville
Shop Smart - Redway
United Indian Health Services - Arcata
Valley Pacific Petroleum
Veteran's Clinic - Eureka
Walmart - Crescent City
Wildberries Marketplace

Gail Saunders did it again!

Thank you, Gail Saunders, the Trinidad Civic Club, Murphy's Market, Headies Pizza and Pour, and the entire Trinidad community. Your wonderful tiny town with the biggest hearts truly embodies the spirit of the North Coast. Because of your support and enthusiasm for our local blood bank, 27 generous donors rolled up their sleeves to give blood. We are especially grateful for all your hard work behind the scenes to bring everyone together, from promoting the drive to welcoming donors with warmth and smiles.

