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Blood donors give in Chiefland



This bird's eye view of the LifeSouth Community Blood Centers blood mobile is from a very light drone that was able to snap the picture even though it was relatively breezy for that flying toy on Wednesday morning (March 1).

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © March 2, 2017 at 2:07 p.m.

CHIEFLAND – The State of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Chiefland Maintenance Office of Chiefland won on Wednesday (March 1) in blood-donating competition with the City of Chiefland.

There were 12 donations for the FDOT and 7 for Chiefland City Hall at yesterday's blood drive competition. An additional donation was not credited to either group, providing a total of 20 donors.

The non-committal donation is interesting, because it is the first noted in this long-running contest between the two government groups. In 2016, the Chiefland FDOT earned in fifth place out of the top 10 government groups having blood drives through

LifeSouth Community Blood Centers.

Cindy Dunkle and Mark Hanna of the FDOT Maintenance Complex in Chiefland are seen with that group's homemade trophy for blood donation.



The LifeSouth Community Blood Centers staff members who were helping donors on Thursday

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were Team Supervisor Keysha Graham, Team Leader Jessica Saylor and Donor Services Technician Michael Crutchfield.

The blood drive competition between the Chiefland City Hall staff and the Florida Department of Transportation staff in Chiefland began in the parking lot of the Hardy Dean Sr. Municipal Building (Chiefland City Hall) from 9 to 11 a.m.

The LifeSouth Blood Mobile then went at noon to the parking lot for the FDOT Maintenance Office located at 1820 S. Young Blvd. (U.S. Alt. 27) in Chiefland.

Donors were told they could designate for either of the two groups in the competition at either location.

Of the first three FDOT donors, Jimmy Ellzey, Sam Agerton and Tommy McArthur, two of them -- Ellzey and Agerton -- listed their donations to be credited to the city.



Sam Agerton (left) and Jimmy Ellzey prepare to donate blood as LifeSouth Community Blood Centers Team Supervisor Keysha Graham helps them. In the meantime, active out of the camera's view, are LifeSouth Community Blood Centers Team Leader Jessica Saylor and Donor Services Technician Michael Crutchfield who are conducting the preliminary work with FDOT employee Tommy McArthur.

FDOT Maintenance Engineer Cindy Dunkle and FDOT Chiefland Blood Drive Chairman Mark Hanna showed a trophy the FDOT made from scrap metal and fat lighter wood in honor of their group winning in the contest with the city.

Hanna was the blood drive chairman at the Lake City FDOT office prior to his transfer to Chiefland. He is glad to help encourage people to donate blood.

Dunkle said the main focus is to have donors who save lives with their blood. In this ongoing competition, Hanna and Dunkle said they have seen an average from the FDOT office of 11 or 12 people and 7 or 8 from the city.

Therefore, Wednesday's competition was average.