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Chiefland Chamber Helps During Emergency Blood Need;

Update: 32 Donations in 2 days



Candace Naughton (with her hair being blown by the breeze), a supervisor with LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, stands behind a banner showing there is an emergency need for blood right now for the hospitals that serve the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties as well as for Alachua, Marion, Columbia and other counties in this part of Florida. On Friday (May 31), the Chiefland Chamber of Commerce sponsored a blood drive at the Historic Chiefland Train Depot Park on Southwest Second Avenue and Main Street (U.S. Highway 19) in Chiefland. Naughton said on Friday (May 31) that the local hospitals are “down” in need of 122 units. A unit of blood is equivalent to approximately 1 pint or 450 milliliters. Therefore, the hospitals needed about 15 and one-quarter gallons of blood on Friday. Local hospitals need all eight blood types (O-negative, O-positive, A-negative, A-positive, B-positive, B-negative, AB-negative and AB-positive) to be donated now, she said. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is the sole provider of blood to local hospitals.

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Chiefland Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Joy Parker stands next to the Life South Community Blood Centers' bloodmobile Friday (May 31). The Chamber of Commerce provided hotdogs, coleslaw, baked beans and potato salad as a lunch for visitors. The Chamber also provided a portable grill, and other items, including a gift basket in raffles that were part of the blood drive.



LifeSouth Community Blood Centers Regional Manager Trish Andress holds the gift basket, which went to some lucky raffle winner on Friday.

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Tammy Baldassarre, a donor recruiter for LifeSouth Community Blood Centers' holds the grill that went to a raffle winner Friday. Among the people working to save lives by collecting blood was Lauren Ditter, a donor service technician with for LifeSouth Community Blood Centers.



The LifeSouth Community Blood Centers' bloodmobile also collected blood during the watermelon festival next day Saturday, June 1.

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32 blood donations in two days in Chiefland

There were 11 donors at the Chamber event on Friday. Those 11 were from eight whole blood donations, one double red-cell donation and two plasma donations. There were five first-time blood donors. On Saturday (June 1) at the Chiefland Watermelon Festival, LifeSouth had 18 donations. Of those 18, 15 were whole blood donations, and there was one double red-cell donation and two plasma donations. That included eight first-time blood donors!

There were a total of 29 donations for the Chiefland mobile drives. Plus, there was one platelet donation at the Chiefland Donor Center on Friday (May 31) and two platelet donations at the donor center on Saturday (June 1).

That equals a grand total of 32 lifesaving donations in Chiefland in two days.

The staff and leaders at LifeSouth express their appreciation to all who gave during the extremely hot conditions on those days.

For donors who missed opportunity to give blood on Friday or Saturday to LifeSouth Community Blood Centers can donate to died using the website seen by clicking [HERE](#).

Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © June 2, 2019 at 12:09 p.m.

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