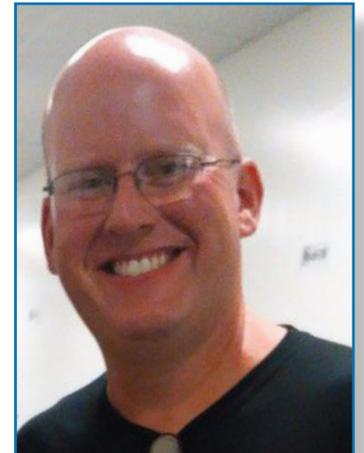




Blood Drive Chairperson Spotlight

CBCO has thousands of volunteers just like you serving in various capacities throughout the Ozarks. There are so many things we can learn from you. This column is designed to provide that learning forum, while also thanking you for the hard work you do on behalf of area patients.

**Chad Thomas, National Honor Society Faculty Advisor
Neosho High School, Neosho, MO**



What inspired you to be a blood drive chairperson?

It actually started by being asked to be the sponsor for our National Honor Society, which has sponsored our local blood drives for as long as I can remember. I had been to blood drives before, but there is something about organizing a blood drive that gives great satisfaction in knowing that what you are doing is making a difference and helping save lives.

How do you promote your blood drives?

Our students go out of their way to encourage students to give blood. We encourage them to invite community members, hold drawings for prizes, use social media extensively, and go class to class to seek out donors. We use the posters and flyers to distribute in classrooms, in halls, and we take them around to local businesses. Our National Honor Society kids at Neosho are the ones that make it so successful!

What has been the most effective way for you to recruit blood donors?

We have been most successful in going class to class to recruit donors.

How do you/your students overcome objections to donating blood?

It is always a challenge convincing some students, but the National Honor Society kids I work with are very persuasive in getting students to give blood, although we always feel like we can do better.

Has there been a moment that made you feel proud of the fact that you hold blood drives?

I think each and every time we hold a blood drive, after knowing the number of students/teachers/community members that took the time to give blood, we as an organization realize that what we did on that day mattered! How many teenagers, or people for that matter, ever get the chance to say that what they did on that day saved lives! It's pretty amazing when you think about it, and I am proud to lead such an unbelievable group of workers year to year.



Did you know that It takes **230 blood donations**
EVERY day to meet the needs of patients in
40 area hospitals?

High School Leadership Workshop Recap

Nearly 500 students and chairpersons from 55 high schools attended CBCO's 2017 High School Leadership Workshops in September. Six half-day events were held over two weeks across the region. Students learned why donating blood is vital to their communities, and they learned skills to help make their blood drives successful. Some of our training will help them throughout their academic careers and even when they join the workforce, including marketing, persuasive speaking, time management, event planning, goal-setting, and more. Next year's workshops will be held September 11 – 20, 2018. Invitations will go out to all of our high school blood drive coordinators at the end of this school year, so don't forget to add us to your schedule.



View our Facebook photo album from our 2017 workshops by clicking [HERE](#). Be sure to tag yourself! Wondering if your school should attend next year? Click on the photo of Chloe from Neosho High School (right) to see a quick video about out why you should be part of next year's workshops.



Are 16-year-olds allowed to donate blood?

Along with the newfound freedom of being handed the keys to the car, 16-year-olds have another newfound privilege – saving lives by donating blood. You might have 16-year-olds asking if they may donate at your blood drive. Here's the scoop that chairpersons need to know in order to answer their questions.



Donors must be at least 17 years old to make the decision on their own to give blood, but 16-year-olds may donate if they have been given parental consent. This consent requires a parent or guardian to sign CBCO's form. The 16-year-old donor will need to bring the signed CBCO consent form to the blood drive, along with a photo ID.

If the donor forgets to bring the signed consent form to the blood drive, he or she won't be able to donate that day. We are unable to call a parent or guardian and get their consent over the phone, and we can't accept handwritten or typed permission notes.

If you would like to print copies of the consent form, or if you would like to send potential donors to our website to download the form on their own, here is the direct link: <http://www.cbco.org/lc-content/uploads/2012/ConsentForm.pdf> Or the consent form may be found by going to our website at www.cbco.org and then clicking on Facts, High Schools, and then scrolling down to find "download a copy of the form" in the last bullet point.

Be a part of the Miracle of Giving

It's time for our annual Miracle of Giving blood drive! Participants at all mobile blood drives and donor centers receive a free long-sleeved shirt Monday, December 11, 2017, through Sunday, December 31, 2017.



The Need For Blood Does Not Take a Snow Day

If blood drives must be postponed due to winter weather or road conditions, our first priority is to reschedule as soon as it fits into both your schedule and ours. Even if your blood drive must be called off, local hospital patients still need those units of blood.

Contact your Blood Drive Consultant once you learn that your school or organization will be closed on the day of your blood drive. Our mobile blood drive crews are often on the road a couple of hours before your blood drive is scheduled to begin, which makes it even more important for us to find out about your cancellations as soon as possible.

If at all possible, please do not cancel your blood drive. Remember that patients are counting on life-saving blood donations. If it can't be avoided, let's get you rescheduled.

If rescheduling is not an option, please ask your donors to stop by one of our four donor centers. It's possible that giving close to your original blood drive date will still allow your donors to be eligible at your next blood drive.

Need to reach your CBCO Blood Drive Consultant?

Julia Curtman	(417) 830-1945	curtmanj@cbco.org
Meredith Johnson	(417) 830-1944	johnsonm@cbco.org
Lisa Medley	(417) 830-1910	lisamedley@cbco.org
	(417) 473-6023	
Savanna Swaffar	(479) 957-5290	swaffars@cbco.org
Brad Terry	(417) 840-9252	blooddriveguy@cbco.org

Is CBCO Following You On Social Media?

We make an effort to follow each of your organizations on social media. If it looks like we're not following you yet, please let us know by emailing slackj@cbco.org. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube by searching for @ozarksblood. This will help you stay up-to-date on what's going on at CBCO, learn about our promotions, and see our newsletters as soon as they are published.

Plus you'll be the first to know when we have special needs, to help our inventory avoid reaching critical levels. We'd love to see you share our posts to help spread the word.

It's also a great way to remind everyone about your upcoming blood drives. When you see CBCO post about your blood drive, be sure to share on Facebook, retweet on Twitter, and heart on Instagram. Ask your donors to do the same, and spread the word even more.

See you online!



Are You Utilizing Volunteers at Your Blood Drives?

Assembling a team of volunteers to help before, during, and after your blood drives can ease a chairperson's load while helping your co-workers get excited about the event. What types of tasks might you ask volunteers to perform?

The safety of donors and volunteers is always kept in mind when assigning tasks to volunteers. For example, effective December 18, 2017, volunteers will no longer handle blood bags, which eliminates the volunteer role of the blood runners who carried full blood bags from the donor beds to unit processing. But there are plenty of other tasks to be taken care of instead.

Publicity – Need help distributing the blood drive posters or table tents provided by CBCO? Ask a few volunteers to help hang posters and set out table tents throughout your building. Local businesses might let you hang posters there, as well. Never hurts to ask. Who is in charge of sending company emails? Ask them to send email reminders along with a .jpg version of your blood drive poster.

Greeters – We're always in need of friendly faces to welcome donors and direct them to registration.

Canteen – The role of a canteen volunteer is more than just serving refreshments. Donors need to be observed for several minutes to make sure they don't have a reaction, and CBCO staff must be notified immediately if they do. If your organization goes beyond the snack selection provided by CBCO, volunteers might bring or make additional snacks, or ask local businesses to provide them.

T-shirts – If your blood drives are held at high schools or universities, assign someone to a post handing out free T-shirts immediately after donors register. Remember, all participants receive T-shirts (not just successful donors).

Runners – High school blood drives are always in need of runners to get students out of class in time for their appointments.

Social Media – Who is in charge of your organization's official social media channels? Ask them to post a .jpg version of your blood drive's poster at least a week in advance and again the day before and the day of your blood drive. Set up a Facebook event, click to add CBCO as a co-host, and invite your team members to the page. Post photographs as the blood drive is taking place. Even if your blood drive is closed to the public, spread some goodwill by showing the community how much you care about others. Be sure to tag us — we're @OzarksBlood on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Pinterest.

Thank you – If your organization sends notes or emails to thank donors, enlist the help of volunteers to promptly get these sent.

Planning and holding a blood drive certainly isn't a one-person job. We hope you'll find willing volunteers within your organization. If you run across individuals who say they aren't able to donate, let them know how much you would appreciate their help as a volunteer. Often, they would love to give back to the community, but feel their inability to donate blood would prevent them from doing so.

