



Blood drive offers ability to help others

Staff editorial

Did you know that one pint of blood can save up to three lives? Also, the average donor donates one pint at a time. So just donating one time means you could potentially save up to three people. Teenagers usually don't think about these types of things because they are so busy with their own lives. So it's no surprise not many people know that over five million patients need blood a year and less than 38 percent of the population is eligible to donate blood.

Twenty-five percent of blood donations come from blood drives at schools like the one recently hosted here. It was hosted by the National Honor Society (NHS) and sponsor Heather Bryan. Bryan sponsors NHS and is very proud of everyone who is helping with the blood drive. "What the Red Cross people do is just amazing. I mean just the set up and tear down, it's crazy. The kids are amazing too but the Red Cross people, wow," said Bryan. FCHS blood drive was a bit short on account of the two-hour delay but still did very well. Everyone that donated should be proud.

Since schools donate 25 percent of blood there is a big need for donors in the summer. Also, blood cannot be manufactured. It has to come directly from volunteer donors and the platelets critical for a cancer patient are only good for five days. This also makes a large problem for Red Cross because they need more donors in a short time. This is why they started in 1940. Now they have more than 200,000 blood drives every year.

More students need to get involved like seniors Jay Holdermen and Jarod Hodge who went and donated their blood at the blood drive. "It's just good to be able to help people," said Holdermen.

"I did it for the community service credit plus it's a good way to help people," said Hodge. They were among a number of students who went down to donate blood. Many students get turned down because of illness, low weight, or another medical problem. Want to find out how to donate? Go to the Red Cross or visit their website at <http://www.red-cross.org> or 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to volunteer or to find a local Red Cross. Just one pint, can help one life. This is the chance. Together we can make a difference.