## For Immediate Release



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Seattle Fire & Police Departments Kick Off Red vs. Blue Blood Drive Challenge June 17 – July 1

Seattle's emergency services compete to see who can inspire the most blood donations during critical time for the local blood supply

Seattle, WA – Bloodworks launches the first-ever "Red vs. Blue Blood Drive," pitting Seattle's Police and Fire Departments (SPD and SFD, respectively) against each other in a friendly challenge to donate the most blood between June 17 and July 1. The city's first responders know firsthand the importance of a strong, stable local blood supply, and are faced with situations every day where a pint of blood can mean the difference between life and death. Blood donors are the *first* first responders ensuring a stable blood supply for emergencies.

All staff, family, friends, and community members are encouraged to donate blood at any Bloodworks Northwest donor center or drive in honor of their chosen department; donors just have to say the code SPD or SFD during registration. Each donor will earn one point for their department, and first-time donors will receive five. When the challenge ends on July 1, each department's donations will be tallied and a winner will be crowned, all while saving lives in the Seattle community.

This partnership between Seattle's emergency services and Bloodworks is only natural; it's all about saving lives. "Just one pint of donated blood can save three lives," said Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best. "We are excited to partner with Bloodworks Northwest for a friendly rivalry between Seattle Police and Seattle Fire to see which organization can donate the most."

Seattle Fire Department Chief Harold Scoggins also expressed how important blood donors are to our community. "As firefighters and paramedics, we see firsthand the importance of donating blood. Every two seconds, someone in the nation needs blood to survive – that someone could be your friend, your family member or a loved one. We encourage everyone to donate blood and help save lives."

A strong blood supply is critical to our community. The donations at this drive will provide urgentlyneeded blood for emergencies at a time when the trauma units around our region typically experience high patient usage. People who receive the most blood include those being treated for cancer, undergoing surgeries, organ and marrow transplants, bleeding disorders, and trauma patients.

Donating blood only takes one hour from registration to cookie. Most people in good health, at least 18 years old, and weighs at least 110 pounds may donate whole blood every 56 days as long as you meet other donor criteria. Information at BloodworksNW.org.

## **Bloodworks Donor Centers & Drives:**

Donors can find locations of donor centers and drives or make appointments online at <u>BloodworksNW.org</u>, by calling 800-398-7888, or by texting bloodapp to 91985 to download the <u>Bloodworks App</u>.

- Bellevue Center
   1807 132nd Avenue NE
   Bellevue, WA 98005
   425-453-4011
- Bellingham Center
   410 W Bakerview Rd., Suite 117
   Bellingham, WA 98226
   360-671-8848
- Central Seattle
  921 Terry Avenue
  Seattle, WA 98104
  206-292-6500
- Everett Center
   2703 Oakes Avenue
   Everett, WA 98201
   425-740-2909
- Federal Way Center

   1414 S 324TH Street

   Suite B101

   Federal Way, WA 98003

   253-945-8660
- Lynnwood Center
   19723 Highway 99, Suite F
   Lynnwood, WA 98036
   425-412-1000

- Olympia Center
   1220 Eastside Street SE
   Olympia, WA 98501
   360-596-3950
- North Seattle Center
   10357 Stone Avenue N
   Seattle, WA 98133
   206-526-1970
- Silverdale Center
   3230 NW Randall Way
   Silverdale, WA 98383
   360-308-7340
- Tukwila Center
   130 Andover Park E
   Tukwila, WA 98188
   206-241-6300
- Vancouver, WA Donor Center
   9320 NE Vancouver Mall Blvd, Suite100
   Vancouver, WA 98662
   360-567-4800
- <u>Lane Donor Center (Lane Bloodworks)</u>
   2211 Willamette St
   Eugene, OR 97405
   541-484-9111

## **About Bloodworks Northwest**

Bloodworks (formerly Puget Sound Blood Center) is backed by 75 years of Northwest history and 250,000 donors. It is local, nonprofit, independent, volunteer-supported and community-based. A recognized leader in transfusion medicine, Bloodworks serves patients in more than 100 hospitals in Washington, Oregon and Alaska — partnering closely with local hospitals to deliver the highest level of patient care. Comprehensive services include blood components, complex cross-matching, specialized lab services for organ transplants, care for patients with blood disorders, and collection of cord blood stem cells for cancer treatment. Bloodworks Research Institute performs leading-edge research in blood biology, transfusion medicine, blood storage and treatment of blood disorders. Patients with traumatic injuries, undergoing surgeries or organ transplantation, or receiving treatment for cancer and blood disorders all depend on our services, expertise, laboratories and research. Blood donation appointments can be scheduled on the Bloodworks App. For more information, visit bloodworksnw.org

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