

## *United Blood Services Press Release*

[www.UnitedBloodServicesAZ.org](http://www.UnitedBloodServicesAZ.org)

### **ASH FORK HIGH SCHOOL EARNS TOP PERCENT PARTICIPATION IN AZ BLOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE *D-backs Honor Arizona Teens for Giving 1 in Every 6 Blood Transfusions***



**May 3, 2018 - Statewide AZ** – For the fifth year, Ash Fork has been recognized as the Arizona school with the highest percentage participation in United Blood Services’ annual Blood Drive Challenge. Under the leadership school nurse Maxine Howington, the students brought in 163 blood donations – *959% of their senior class size* - which benefited more than 325 patients after separation in components. The students’ accomplishments were honored by the Arizona Diamondbacks on May 2 at Chase Field in front of thousands of cheering fans. Championship banners were presented on-field during pregame ceremonies to

the nine schools earning the highest honors. D-backs team President and CEO Derrick Hall invited Ash Fork High School to enjoy the game from a party suite and stopped by with baseball legend Luis Gonzalez to offer their personal thanks and congratulations.

Teen donations have more than doubled since the D-backs signed on as sponsors of the High School Blood Drive Challenge in 1998. “Working with Arizona’s youth to instill outstanding community values is one of our major goals,” said team President and CEO Derrick Hall. “We applaud their accomplishments and are delighted to honor them for saving lives.” The D-backs donated 1,000 tickets to 126 award-winning schools to their May 2 game against the Los Angeles Dodgers.



With nearly 22,000 blood donations by the end of the school year, teens have retained their status as United Blood Services largest donor group for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The 204 high schools participating in the blood drive challenge organized 514 blood drives across Arizona. “High school donors are the top contributors to Arizona’s blood supply,” said Sid Lewis, Sr. Director of Donor Recruitment for United Blood Services Southwest Division. “One in every six blood transfusions comes from a teen in Arizona, far surpassing any other age group of donors.”

#### **Top Winning Schools**

**Most Total Donations – 671:** Highland High School (Gilbert) ~ *Winner for 11<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Years!*  
**Highest Percent Participation – 959%:** Ash Fork High School (Ash Fork) ~ *5-Time Winner!*

#### **High School Blood Drive Challenge Divisions & Winners**

**Babe Ruth:** Bradshaw Mountain High School (Prescott Valley)  
**Cy Young:** Snowflake High School (Snowflake)  
**Hank Aaron:** Apache Junction High School (Apache Junction)  
**Jackie Robinson:** West-MEC Southwest Campus (Buckeye)  
**Lou Gehrig:** Poston Butte High School (San Tan Valley)  
**Nolan Ryan:** Co-champs Benjamin Franklin High School (Queen Creek) & Phoenix Job Corps Center (Phoenix)  
**Roberto Clemente:** Highland High School (Gilbert)  
**Sandy Koufax:** Ash Fork High School (Ash Fork)

### **About the High School Blood Drive Challenge**

The High School Blood Drive Challenge was launched in 1984 for all Arizona high schools organizing drives with United Blood Services. Participating schools compete against other schools with a similar number of seniors to earn achievement awards. Based on percentage participation, schools that reach gold or higher award levels receive tickets to an Arizona Diamondbacks game to celebrate their accomplishments. The eight division-winning schools, as well as the two schools with the highest number of donations and the highest percent participation, are formally recognized on the field during pre-game ceremonies. For more information about the challenge, visit [www.UnitedBloodServicesAZHS.org](http://www.UnitedBloodServicesAZHS.org).

### **About United Blood Services**

United Blood Services has been Arizona's non-profit community blood provider since 1943 and serves patients in more than 60 Arizona hospitals. The UBS network is one of the nation's oldest and largest non-profit blood service organizations, and is a founding member of America's Blood Centers and the American Association of Blood Banks. For more information on how to Find the Hero in You, please call 1-877-UBS-HERO (1-877-827-4376) toll-free or visit [www.UnitedBloodServicesAZ.org](http://www.UnitedBloodServicesAZ.org).

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