



## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual “Pint for a Pass” Blood Drive Give Life to the Community While Savings on Your Trip to the Fair!**

The Big Fresno Fair and Central California Blood Center have teamed up again for the 14th consecutive year of the “Pint for a Pass” Blood Drive, which runs August 27 – October 14! During this time, anyone who donates blood at a Central California Blood Center donor center or mobile drive, will receive a “Buy One, Get One FREE” admission voucher good for the 2024 Big Fresno Fair, plus they will automatically be entered-to-win concert and horse racing tickets.

This year’s “Pint for a Pass” Blood Drive kicked off with fanfare at a Special Launch Event held at the Fresno’s Fairgrounds’ Commerce Building. Things got started bright and early at 5:00 a.m. with corn dogs and kettle corn for donors, a special commemorative t-shirt for donors (while supplies lasted!) and special concert ticket drawings every hour which ran until 4 p.m. The results during our “Pint for a Pass” launch resulted with an outstanding total of 261 donors by the end of the day. The 6-week “Pint for a Pass” Blood Drive promotion goes until October 14, so come out and donate, get BOGO admission and save a Valley life!

“Blood cannot be manufactured or created. It has to be donated by voluntary blood donors, like you,” said Christopher Staub, President and CEO, Central California Blood Center. “Valley People Need Valley Blood and Together, Life Flows From Here.”

During the past 13 years, more than 104,000 pints of blood have been collected. For every pint of blood, there is the potential to save up to three lives, which means in the last 13 years, the “Pint for a Pass” Blood Drive has potentially helped save up to 312,000 lives! The reason one pint can save up to three lives is because the Central California Blood Center’s state-of-the-art lab can separate one pint of blood into three different components: whole blood, plasma, and platelets.

While all blood is needed and welcome, Type O blood is routinely in short supply and in high demand by hospitals – both because it is the most common blood type and because Type O negative blood is the universal type needed for emergency transfusions. Don’t know your blood type? The easiest way to find out is donate blood! Visit <http://www.donateblood.org> for a list of donor centers and mobile drives.

The Central California Blood Center provides blood and blood products to hospitals in Fresno, Tulare, Madera, Kings and Mariposa Counties and must collect between 5,000 to 6,000 pints of blood a month to meet the needs of our Valley community. Blood donation takes less than one hour to complete and donors can give blood every eight weeks. Donors must be in good general health, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be at least 18 years old (16 or 17 years old with written parental consent). Senior citizens are encouraged to donate, as there is no upper age limit. If you got a tattoo in the last 12 months and it was applied by a state-regulated entity, which uses sterile needles and ink that are not reused, you can still donate blood!

So come out to donate! Ten minutes in the chair will get you a day at the 2024 Big Fresno Fair!