

Everyday Heroes

Blood Centers of the Pacific's Diversity E-newsletter

August 2011

Captain Robinson's Salute to Blood and Organ Donors



In our June issue, we highlighted San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) Captain Raemona Williams' commitment to blood donation. This month, we feature her friend and longtime member of the SFFD, Captain Anthony Robinson's story about his need for blood.

Diagnosed with [cardiomyopathy](#) in 1993, doctors told Captain Robinson that he might one day need a heart transplant. Cardiomyopathy, which literally means "heart muscle disease," is the deterioration of the function of the actual heart muscle, for any reason. People with cardiomyopathy are at high risk of sudden death due to a massive heart attack.

In February 2010, Captain Robinson was in critical need of a heart transplant and his family rallied around him. Having a family member in need of an organ transplant is not new for the Robinson family. Ten years ago, the captain's mother, Dorothy, was a kidney recipient.

Just like his mother with her kidney surgery, Captain Robinson has since made a remarkable recovery. The captain is grateful to the heart donor "Danny in Eureka" and Danny's family for giving the gift of life.

Captain Robinson is back to work and enjoying the job he loves. In addition to the organ donor, Danny, the captain credits the love of his own family as something that got him through the difficult days. He says that his family has always been close and this time in their lives was no exception. With the support of his family and girlfriend LaMonica Esver, Captain Robinson has been able to get through this process and now knows what he is here to do.

Advocating for organ, tissue and blood donation is now a priority for Captain Robinson. He comments on how he "used a lot of blood" during his surgery and wishes to extend a grateful thank you to all blood donors, including his friend Captain Williams.

Blood Donation and All that Jazz!

Back for its second year, the [Giants Jazz Fest Celebrating African American Arts and Culture](#) is not to be missed! This event includes a pregame festival with entertainment provided by live local Jazz musicians, cultural vendors featuring arts, crafts, and all varieties of other treats, and delicious food and drink.

And this year, BCP is giving away a pair of tickets (worth \$78) to a lucky blood donor! Your special event ticket package includes admission to the pre-game festival and a seat in the Jazz Fest section for the game against the division rival

Diamondbacks, as well as a Giants-themed giveaway. Just donate blood at any of the blood drives listed below and you'll be automatically entered into a raffle!



The Jazz Fest is happening prior to the Giants vs. Diamondbacks game on Saturday, September 3rd, in Lefty O'Doul Plaza just outside of AT&T Park. The Plaza is located by the O'Doul entrance to the Park, on Third Street, right next to McCovey Cove and the Third Street Bridge.



The lucky donor will be notified on Monday, August 29th, AND will receive a special one-of-a-kind “Fear the Beard, Not the Blood” Giants T-shirt to wear to the game!

Show the world that you “step up to the plate” to support the blood needs of African American sickle cell patients, and others, in need of lifesaving blood transfusions.

Saving Lives at a Blood Drive Near You

Save lives by donating blood at one of these community-sponsored blood drives or at any of our [center locations](#):

1) Third Baptist Church of San Francisco, 1399 McAllister Street, San Francisco, 94115
Sunday, August 7, 2011
12:30pm – 5:30pm
Location: Downstairs Fellowship Hall
For Appointments [Click HERE](#)

2) Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 6901 Rudsdale Street, Oakland, 94621
Saturday, August 13, 2011
10:00am – 3:00pm
Location: Bloodmobile in front of church
For Appointments [Click HERE](#)

3) Ella Baker Center for Human Rights - "Throw Down in the Park" Festival, Mosswood Park
3699 Broadway, Oakland, 94612
Saturday, August 13, 2011
2:00pm – 6:00pm
Location: Bloodmobile parked on MacArthur Blvd side of Mosswood Park
For Appointments [Click HERE](#)

4) Mills Grove Christian Church, 5410 Fleming Avenue, Oakland, 94619
Saturday, August 13, 2011
10:00am – 2:00pm
Location: Bloodmobile in front of church
For Appointments [Click HERE](#)

5) Oakland Community Drive
Monday, August 22, 2011
2:00pm – 7:00pm
Children's Hospital Oakland
Location: Bloodmobile on 52nd Street next to Outpatient Hospital, Oakland, 94609
For Appointments [Click HERE](#)

6) Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church, 1909 Market Street, Oakland, 94607
Saturday, August 27, 2011
9:00am – 2:00pm
Location: Bloodmobile in front of church
For Appointments [Click HERE](#)

7) Greater Eastside Church of God In Christ, 2490 Story Road, San Jose, 95122
Sunday, August 28, 2011
2:00pm – 6:00pm
Location: Bloodmobile in front of church

For Appointments [Click HERE](#)



**“What Sickle Cell Means To Me”
Art Contest**

Calling all artists ages 5 and up!
What does sickle cell disease mean to you?

To celebrate Sickle Cell Awareness Month, everyone (sickle cell patients and non-patients alike) is invited to answer the question, "What Sickle Cell Means To Me" by expressing it through art in any medium.

Select artwork will be displayed at Studio One Art Center at the 101 Heroes Blood Drive on September 24th.

For more information on the art contest and how to submit, please contact Fred McFadden at (415) 354-1381 or email fmcfadden@bloodcenters.org.



Donate Blood. Save Lives. | 1-888-393-GIVE | www.bloodcenters.org