

R.E. Strayer Middle School Street Team Saves 201 Lives During Blood Drive

By Evan J. Donham, sophomore, Quakertown Community High School

On Monday, Nov. 23, Quakertown's Strayer Middle School hosted one of the area's most highly successful American Red Cross blood drives. Participants donated 67 usable pints of blood to be distributed to hospitals in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey areas. The turnout of 74 people was in itself amazing, but what surprised the donors the most was not the efficient process or the massive turnout, it was that 16 of the school's students had coordinated the whole blood drive. From calling and scheduling to reminding and greeting donors, the students on the school's Street Team had a hand in all the blood drive's workings. Jane, an American Red Cross volunteer at the blood drive said, "This was the busiest and smoothest run blood drive I have seen."

The Street Team is only two years old and is made up of 16 seventh and eighth graders who applied to join the team after being nominated by their teachers for demonstrating leadership skills. The Street Team's creation was a result of the LifeSkills Conference. This conference hosts around 120 kids for a week each summer. According to Strayer principal and conference advisor, Cindy Lapinski, the LifeSkills Conference felt like a great way to help extend the "Strayer Strong" mantra, which promotes change and creating productive citizens.

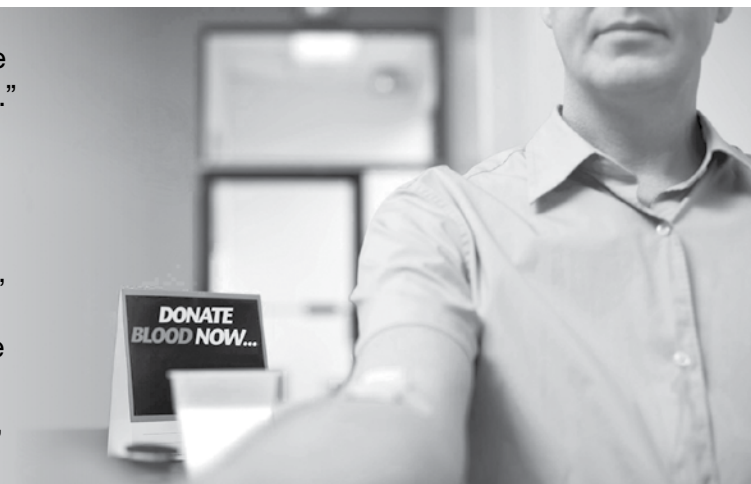
Becoming a Street Team member is no easy feat; 80 kids were nominated but only 11 were selected for the first year. The team is extremely diverse academically, as they were picked for leadership skills and not academics. This group of students adds a new dynamic to the school. Like the school's motto, these students truly "Live the change ... make a difference."

After learning that the Masonic Blood Donor Club had donated to the 2009 LifeSkills Conference, Strayer teacher and LifeSkills Conference advisor Tracey Holland decided to reach out to Jeff Donham, Blood Drive Chairman, 9th Masonic District, and a parent of a Strayer student. After Donham visited the conference, he proposed that the Street Team learn how to coordinate and run a blood drive of their own, and the kids accepted the challenge. "The kids did

everything," said Donham. "From making phone calls and scheduling donations, they did it all."

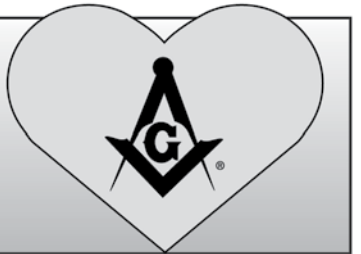
Holland also mentioned that the blood drive was, "a way to promote community partnership," and the partnership between Strayer, the American Red Cross, and the Masons showed in the astounding turnout at the blood drive. With the sponsorship of Prosperity Lodge No. 567 in Riegelsville, the Masonic Blood Donor Club made a gift of \$10 for every pint of blood collected. The gift will be used toward the Street Team's participation in the 2010 LifeSkills Conference next summer in Elizabethtown, Pa.

Seventy-four people showed up at Strayer Middle School willing to donate blood. Only 12 were deferred for reasons like illness or international travel, and 67 pints of blood were collected thanks to the Double Red Program. Jaclyn Mattis, account manager, American Red Cross, told the kids, "Three lives are saved for every donation collection." An even more amazing statistic: 28 were first time donors, and the consensus from the multiple donors is that after your first donation, continuing to donate is easy. This show of selflessness from so many people in these rough times is a testament to the generosity of the community. With the help of their school, their community, the American Red Cross and Masonic Blood Donor Club, 16 middle school students succeeded in hosting a highly-beneficial blood drive that is going to save more than 200 lives in the area and promote a stronger community in Bucks County.



MASONIC BLOOD DONOR CLUB NEWS

Masonic Temple
One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598



OUR ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

MARCH 2010

A Good Program for Your Lodge

As part of Grand Master Thomas K. Sturgeon's 21st Century Renaissance to improve the visibility and image of Pennsylvania Freemasonry, every lodge must host a fundraiser to provide at least a \$2,000 donation to the Masonic Villages in celebration of the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown's 100th anniversary.

Your lodge could run a Blood Drive to support the Masonic Villages. For every unit of blood collected, the Masonic Blood Donor Club will donate \$10 to the 501(C)3 Masonic charity of your choice. The money your lodge makes can be credited toward your lodge's \$2,000 minimum donation.

To get started:

- Print a copy of the Masonic Blood Drive Charity Program Form from the Grand Lodge Web site: www.pagrandlodge.org.
- Complete the top half of the form. On the line that reads "Masonic Charity to Benefit?," print "Masonic Villages."
- Have Frank Caltagirone (whose contact information is on the form) approve the form.

Frank will return the approved form. After the blood drive, the blood bank that collected the blood will send you the results of the drive.

Once you get the results:

- On the bottom half of the form where it reads "Make Check Payable to 'Charity Name,'" print "Masonic Villages – Credit the 100th anniversary celebration for our lodge."
- Send a copy of the completed form to Bill Gottschalk (whose contact information is on the form).

Support for New DeMolay Chapter



On Nov. 11, 2009, Tyler Bausinger, the first member of the new Delaware Valley Chapter, Fairless Hills, attended a Masonic Blood Donor Collection event in Bensalem. Since this was Veterans Day, Tyler was there to greet

and hand out U.S. Flags to donors as they arrived to donate blood. This very successful blood drive collected 52 pints of blood.

Three days later, at the Masonic Youth Veterans Dance, "Dad" Chuck Lankert and "Dad" Tom Barton received a donation of \$520 for the new Chapter from the Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Club in recognition of the Chapter's support of this blood collection event. Blood Donor Chairman Edward Budman of Masonic District "D" made the presentation. Budman went on to explain that Masonic Youth Group participation in blood collection events is important. He explained that for each unit of blood collected, three lives can be saved.



MASONIC BLOOD DONOR CLUB

"We Give That Others May Live"

Reminder for All Masons and Their Families:

The need for organ and tissue donations continues to grow. As Masons, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those who are waiting for a life-giving transplant. One donor can help several individuals regain a healthy life. If you have never signed an organ donor card, please take that step now! For more information, please contact:

Rick Knepper

1461 Hospitality Drive,
Chambersburg, PA 17202

Phone: (717) 263 – 1189

Email: rknepper@embarqmail.com

More Than \$35,000 from Blood Drives Benefits Charities

The Masonic Blood Club's Masonic related charities program gained popularity in 2009 and provided more than \$35,000 in donations to Masonic related 501(C)3 charities. This represents more than 3,500 pints of life-saving blood because Masonic related 501(C)3 charities can receive donations of \$10 for each unit of blood collected at Masonic facilities or during Masonic sponsored blood drives. All donations must be approved by the Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Committee prior to each blood drive.

For information or assistance, contact your District Deputy Grand Master; District Blood Chairman; Norman A. Fox, President of the Masonic Blood Donor Club, at normfox@aol.com; Frank D. Caltagirone at (610) 777-7549 or frankdca@comcast.net; or William F. Gottschalk, Jr., Treasurer of the Masonic Blood Donor Club, at (717) 361-4067 or bng5650@dejazzd.com.

Facts about Blood and Donors

- More than 4.5 million patients need blood transfusions each year in the U.S. and Canada.
- 43,000 pints: amount of donated blood used each day in the U.S. and Canada.
- Someone needs blood every two seconds.
- Only 37 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood. Less than 10 percent of those eligible donate annually.
- About one in seven people entering a hospital need blood.
- One pint of blood can save up to three lives.
- Healthy adults who are at least 17 years old and at least 110 pounds may donate about one pint of blood (the most common donation) every 56 days or every two months.
- Females receive 53 percent of blood transfusions; males receive 47 percent.
- One unit of blood can be separated into several components: red blood cells, plasma, platelets and cryoprecipitate.
- Red blood cells carry oxygen to the body's organs and tissues.
- Red blood cells live about 120 days in the circulatory system.
- Platelets promote blood clotting and give those with leukemia and other cancers a chance to live.
- Plasma, which is 90 percent water, makes up 55 percent of blood's volume.

Three Honored by DeMolay

On Sept. 27, 2009, Pennsylvania DeMolay honored three members of the Masonic Blood Donors Club Board of Directors by investing them with the Honorary Legion of Honor. Norman A. Fox, Chairman; William F. Gottschalk, Jr., Treasurer; and Edward Budman, Director, humbly received the recognition at the Lancaster Masonic Center, along with nine other men, amid a packed room of members of the Pennsylvania DeMolay, family members and friends.

The Honorary Legion of Honor is conferred upon Master Masons who are over 30 years of age and were never members of DeMolay. These recipients have performed unusual and meritorious service on behalf of the order or have evidenced a spirit of cooperation and appreciation for DeMolay.

Congratulations to these men who have provided leadership, positively represented the Masonic Blood Donors Club and supported the Pennsylvania DeMolay.



Left to right: Norman A. Fox; William F. Gottschalk, Jr.; and Edward Budman



Thank You for Your Continued Support

The Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Committee thanks everyone who voluntarily gave a financial contribution to the Masonic Blood Donor Club in 2009. *The club is only able to operate because of your generosity and financial support.*

With 2010 underway, we anticipate continued growth of the Masonic Blood Club's Masonic related charities program and new opportunities to collect and provide blood throughout the state. Our mantra, "We Give That Others May Live," continues to ring true after 43 years.

We are grateful for your support and hope that you and others will continue to give this year and into the future as these contributions continue to be the "bread and butter" that keep the club going and growing. Remember, we are a Federal Tax Exempt 501(C)3 Club.



Widows: When You Move, Please Let Us Know

Every year, the Masonic Blood Donor Club loses track of our widows who move. Once the post office's forwarding service has expired, it will not forward your mail. Your mail is returned to us, and we have only one choice: to remove you as a member.

Also, please let us know of the death of a widow. We ask a family member, any members who are widows or any Blood Club member to inform us if he or she knows of a widow member who has passed away.

Please notify the Secretary (his phone number is on the back of your membership card) or William F. Gottschalk, Jr., Treasurer, at (717) 361- 4067.

