



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SEPTEMBER 11 MARKS SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK'S 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**SAN DIEGO (September 11, 2020)** Founded on September 11, 1950, San Diego Blood Bank has been serving our community for seven decades.

Historical photos found [here](#).

**Of Note for Patriot's Day:** As the country stood still on Sept 11, 2001, San Diego Blood Bank cleared its shelves and sent 380 pints of blood to New York City with the help of the United States Navy. **Blood from local donors was the first to arrive on the scene that same day.** On that day and in the days that followed, donors lined up to give blood, many waiting in line for several hours. By the end of the week, more than 3,000 people had donated.

### Highlights of 70 years:

- San Diego Blood Bank has been serving Sharp HealthCare since 1954.
- SDBB supported the early development of open-heart surgery in San Diego in the 1960s. At that time, several pints of blood were necessary just to prime heart-lung machines.
- SDBB responded to a request by the Department of Defense for weekly blood shipments during Operation Desert Storm in 1991
- San Diego Chargers Blood Drive set the first Guinness World Record for "largest single-day, single-location blood drive" for surpassing 1,853 donations. By 1998, the Chargers Drive had increased collections 38% with a record of 2,549 donations.
- San Diego Blood Bank had collected more than 3,500,000 blood donations from volunteer blood donors.

See full timeline [here](#).

David Wellis, CEO, San Diego Blood Bank comments, "As we remember this day for being both our founding day and a day we will never forget, we are reminded of how blood donation connects our community to something bigger than ourselves. Donating

blood connects people to life. We are proud of 70 years of Saving Lives Today and Improving Life Tomorrow and look forward to the next 70 years.”

To make an appointment or financial donation, visit [SanDiegoBloodBank.org](http://SanDiegoBloodBank.org). Donors must be 17 years or older, weigh a minimum of 114 pounds and be in general good health.

**About San Diego Blood Bank**

SDBB is dedicated to community health by providing a reliable supply of blood to patients in need. Our vision is to further ensure the health of our community by simultaneously delivering related health and wellness education and services and extending into research. SDBB is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves hospitals in San Diego, Orange, Imperial and Los Angeles counties with blood transfusion products and reference laboratory services. SDBB currently operates six local donor centers and 10 bloodmobiles. SDBB’s Cell Therapy Program provides lifesaving stem cell transplants to patients worldwide. For more information about SDBB, visit [www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org](http://www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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