



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Sharp HealthCare Collects 1,290 Pints of Blood for Local Hospital Patients During Blood Donation Challenge**

**SAN DIEGO (December 9, 2020)** – Sharp HealthCare has collected 1,290 pints of blood at its facilities across the county from employees, their families and friends, as a part of their Sharp Lends a Hand community outreach program. As San Diego’s leading health care provider, Sharp hospitals use approximately 24,000 units of blood products each year to care for their patients. The San Diego Blood Bank is the primary provider of blood products to Sharp hospitals across San Diego.

Last year, Sharp HealthCare announced its goal to collect 1,700 pints of blood in 2020. Sharp employees, their families and friends were encouraged to donate blood at mobile drives at Sharp locations or at any San Diego Blood Bank donor center or mobile drive. While the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of 22 planned blood drives, Sharp was able to host 47 blood drives at various Sharp locations throughout San Diego. The result – though less than the pre-pandemic goal – was enough to name Sharp as San Diego’s largest single donor of blood products to the San Diego Blood Bank in 2020.

“It has been a tough year for blood centers across the country, so Sharp HealthCare’s contributions were absolutely essential in keeping the blood supply safe for our community,” said David Wellis, CEO, San Diego Blood Bank. “The need for blood continues as we head into the holiday season, so we hope others will donate and follow Sharp HealthCare’s lead.”

“We are so proud of the people of Sharp for being on the frontlines to care for San Diegans during this pandemic, while also supporting the community through providing life-saving blood donations,” said Chris Howard, President and CEO of Sharp HealthCare. “We are grateful for our continued partnership with the San Diego Blood Bank and honored to be their top supporter this year.”

Sharp HealthCare’s goal for 2021 will be 1,500 units of blood.

To be eligible to donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 114 pounds and be in general good health. To make an appointment, please visit [www.sandiegobloodbank.org/donate](http://www.sandiegobloodbank.org/donate) or call (619) 400-8251.

### **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](#).

### **About Sharp HealthCare**

Sharp HealthCare has been widely acclaimed for its commitment to transform the health care experience for patients, physicians and staff through an organization-wide performance improvement initiative called The Sharp Experience. Under this initiative, Sharp's vision is to be recognized by employees, physicians, patients, volunteers and the community as the best place to work, best place to practice medicine, and best place to receive care.

Sharp is recognized for clinical excellence in cardiac, cancer, multi-organ transplantation, orthopedics, rehabilitation, behavioral health, women's health, home health and hospice services. The Sharp system includes four acute-care hospitals, three specialty hospitals, three affiliated medical groups, a health plan, and numerous outpatient facilities and programs. To learn more about Sharp, visit [Sharp Health News](#).

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