

MEDIA ADVISORY - TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

MEDIA CONTACTS:

San Diego Blood Bank

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AMID BLOOD SHORTAGE, LOCAL TEENAGER WILL SHARE HOW BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS SAVED HIS LIFE

WHAT: 17-year-old Jonah Chuang will share his journey of receiving blood transfusions, noting the importance of giving blood this time of year to help patients who desperately need it. San Diego Blood Bank along with Rady Children's will partner on January 28 to share how important it is for people to consider becoming blood donors, especially now during this critical blood shortage.

At three weeks old Jonah was diagnosed with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a rare congenital defect in his immune system. HLH is fatal without a quick accurate diagnosis, early medical stabilization, and then hazardous bone marrow transplant (BMT). During his prolonged treatment, Jonah required life-saving transfusions of red blood cells and platelets to support his successful BMT. He celebrated his 17th BMT anniversary in 2024, and is now a healthy teen, talented trumpeter, and excellent student.

In honor of National Blood Donor Month, Rady Children's and San Diego Blood Bank will hold a blood drive on **January 28 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** to help address the blood shortage. Appointments will be honored first; walk-ins are welcome. Appointments available at SanDiegoBloodbank.org.

A brief presentation will be held and will include remarks from San Diego Blood Bank Chief Executive Officer Douglas Morton, Jonah Chuang, and Tristan McKnight, MD, Medical Director, Blood Bank/Transfusion Medicine, Rady Children's.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 10 a.m.

WHERE: **Rady Children's Hospital - 3665 Kearny Villa Road, SD 92123**

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