

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Media contact:

Claudine Van Gonka/Director, Community Relations & Media  
C (619) 455-7785, [cvangonka@sandiegobloodbank.org](mailto:cvangonka@sandiegobloodbank.org)

[Link to photos here](#)

## DEDICATED BLOOD DONOR DONATES 150<sup>TH</sup> GALLON OF BLOOD

**SAN DIEGO (April 22, 2025)** – San Diego Blood Bank proudly honored longtime donor and Oceanside resident Thomas Kessler yesterday as he reached an incredible donor milestone - 150 gallons donated! Kessler celebrated while completing his 634<sup>th</sup> donation at San Diego Blood Bank's donor center in Vista with festive balloons and fanfare from staff.

Thomas has been donating blood and platelets at San Diego Blood Bank for 35 years and has donated 634 times since 1990.

He started donating when a friend of his family was diagnosed with leukemia and needed blood transfusions. His friend is now in total remission and is preparing to become a dad to his second child.

"Even if you only have time to donate once, your donation could make a difference, not just in San Diego but possibly throughout Southern California," said Kessler. "You could be helping a child or an adult - you never know whose life you may change."

To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health. Appointments are prioritized, but walk-ins are always welcome. Visit [SanDiegoBloodBank.org/donate](https://SanDiegoBloodBank.org/donate) or call (619) 400-8251 to schedule your donation today.

### About San Diego Blood Bank

San Diego Blood Bank is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization also operating as Southern California Blood Bank, serving hospitals throughout Southern California. San Diego Blood Bank 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 collaborate with various partners in medical research. San Diego Blood Bank currently operates 10 fixed-site donation locations and 10 bloodmobiles.

For 75 years, San Diego Blood Bank has grown alongside the city, evolving to meet the needs of a changing San Diego. It remains rooted in compassion and community leadership and the crucial work required to maintain a steady blood supply for our region. Since 1950, San Diego Blood Bank has collected more than 5.5 million pints of blood from volunteer blood donors and currently impacts as many as 150,000 patient

lives each year. What differentiates San Diego Blood Bank from other blood banking organizations is simple – they are a community blood bank serving San Diego and the region specifically.

For more information about San Diego Blood Bank, visit [SanDiegoBloodBank.org](https://www.sandiegobloodbank.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

###