

Blood Drive 2014/ 2015 by Breanne Kinney

We need your blood. On September 19, 2014 Canadian Blood Services (CBS) activated their “Blood Signal”, which is an urgent call for blood donations due to low inventory in Red Deer.

The message from CBS was loud and clear, and captured the attention of a few of the nurses in the Red Deer Operating Room. “We should do something”, we thought. “How can we help?”

Shortly after the call for blood, one of the nurses on unit 23 put together a team and challenged other units in the hospital to do the same, in a race to see which unit could donate the most units of blood from October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. The O.R. was in!

The Operating Room joined the Partners for Life program through CBS, and the donations (and recruitment) began. Posters were hung throughout the O.R., and staff and family members were encouraged to partner with the O.R. to register their donations.

Forty-four donations were made in the 6 months of the challenge. The O.R. came in second place, next to unit 31 who had 48 donations. Canadian Blood Services held an appreciation night to recognize this and other amazing contributions over the past years. The O.R. received a certificate in recognition of our donations as a partner in the Partners for Life program.

Just because the initial challenge from unit 23 has come to an end, our nurses have not stopped donating. Staff, friends and family are all encouraged to partner with the Red Deer Hospital Operating Room and count their donations as part of our ongoing team. We are committed to donating 15 units per year. We have already proven that we can do better than that! Donating blood is an excellent way to continue helping in the care of our patients.

To join our team, access the Partners for Life area of the Canadian Blood Services website www.blood.ca. Click “Team Up” under the “Member” section. Our Partner ID number is REDD188203. Start donating today; even one donation will make the world of difference to a patient in need.