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Date: June 10, 2013
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Sixteen-year-old Blood Recipient and Blood Bank of Hawaii to Thank Donors Celebrating World Blood Donor Day

Honolulu – Not yet old enough to donate himself, Keanan Block's life has already been changed by donated blood. To show his appreciation for the 11 units of life-saving blood Keanan recently received, the 16-year-old 'Iolani student will personally thank donors at Blood Bank of Hawaii (BBH).

Keanan will share his story at BBH's Dillingham Donor Center on June 14 at 10 a.m., when high school students will be donating in honor of World Blood Donor Day. This event will be Keanan's chance to thank donors, like those who changed his life, and show students they may be saving the life of a fellow classmate, family member or someone else they know.

Never imagining what he would experience, Keanan wishes he could thank all the people who helped. "I was enjoying spring break at the beach one day," says Keanan. "Then all of a sudden, I'm being rushed to the hospital, having to stay three different times, and missing school. Everyone was so helpful, including the people who donated the blood I needed."

Keanan will be accompanied by his father, who has donated over 100 pints of blood while living in California and Hawaii. "Knowing more than half of us will need blood, I always thought I should give blood," Keith explains. "It's amazing to me that only two percent of people donate blood. If you can, why wouldn't you?" In all his years of donating, Keith never imagined he would see his own son in need of the very life-saving gift he has selflessly donated. With the need for blood having hit so close to home, Keith is grateful for blood donors and hopes more people will see the importance start saving lives by donating blood.

Although patients count on voluntary blood donors every day in Hawaii, donor turnout is low during the summer because of vacations and other activities. Occurring June 14, World Blood Donor Day takes place at the onset of summer to remind donors the need for blood does not take a vacation. Voluntary donors are celebrated world-wide for selflessly giving to changes the lives of blood recipients, like Keanan, and their families.

About World Blood Donor Day

World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) is part of a global campaign to build public awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank those special individuals who give blood voluntarily and regularly without reward.

To celebrate WBDD, America's Blood Centers and Nexcare 3M Bandages have partnered to make blood donation a national priority by thanking and encouraging recurring donations. Donors who give the gift of life at any Blood Bank of Hawaii drive from June 10-14 will receive a uniquely designed bandage, inspired by trends from past decades. For more information, visit www.nexcaregive.com.

About Blood Bank of Hawaii

Founded in 1941, Blood Bank of Hawaii (BBH) is a non-profit organization committed to providing a safe and adequate supply of blood, blood products and related transfusion services to Hawaii's patients. BBH is licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, accredited by AABB, and a founding member of America's Blood Centers, the nation's largest network of community-based blood programs. For more information, visit www.BBH.org.

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