



Latest from Youth Leaders

One of the Red Cross's five lines of service, Biomedical Services works to provide hospitals and transfusion centers with a variety of blood products such as whole blood, platelets and plasma, all of which play a critical role in saving people's lives. While the most direct way to support this line of service is [to donate blood](#), there are many other opportunities for you to engage with its lifesaving mission.

For example, one thing you can do is participate in the [Leaders Save Lives Scholarship Program](#). If you host a blood drive while school is out of session, you can earn leadership skills, volunteer hours, a gift card and be entered to win a scholarship. Another similar program is the [Sickle Cell Fighter High School Scholarship Program](#). The top ten high schools in the country that host at least one blood drive and collect the most productive units from African American donors will be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to give to an eligible high school senior.

The National Youth Council will be hosting two events in January that you can attend to learn more about different aspects of Biomedical Services. The first, which will take place on January 23 at 5:00 p.m. ET, will [focus on the Closing the Sickle Cell Gap initiative](#), while the second, which will happen on January 30 at 7:00 p.m. ET, is a [Crash Course Call about the field, its importance and how to get involved](#). RSVP to attend both today!



Closing the Sickle Cell Gap

On January 1, 2021, the American Red Cross launched a national initiative called *Closing the Sickle Cell Gap* with the goal of tripling the number of African American blood donors by December 31, 2025. This is because around the U.S., nearly 100,000 people have sickle cell disease, most of whom are of Black or African descent. Since no cure exists, individuals with sickle cell disease may require as many as 100 units of blood each year to treat the many complications of the disorder. For many patients, a close blood type match is essential and is found in donors of the same race or

Young Adult Volunteer Spotlight: Za'hyre Creamer



Za'hyre Creamer helped lead her school, Albany State University, to a 3rd Place finish in the HBCU Virtual Blood Drive Challenge in June

From June 3-16, 16 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) across the nation participated in the Red Cross's HBCU Virtual Blood Drive Challenge. This campaign, which was part of the [Closing the Sickle Cell Gap initiative](#), aimed to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) and inspire more Black individuals to roll up their sleeves and donate blood. As a person who knows someone affected by SCD, Za'hyre Creamer chose to represent Albany State University as a student ambassador because she wanted to spread the word about the need for Black donors and give back to the community.

In her role, Za'hyre worked with both school faculty and her Red Cross region (the Georgia region) to organize and promote a virtual blood drive during the established time frame. Thanks to her leadership, Albany State University recruited enough blood donors to earn the school a 3rd Place finish in the challenge.

similar ethnicity. Therefore, reaching more Black donors is critical to providing better health outcomes to patients experiencing a sickle cell crisis.

Are you interested in getting involved with this initiative? Visit the [Sickle Cell Initiative page](#) on the Exchange to learn more.

Expand Your Knowledge



Are you a writer or artist who is passionate about International Humanitarian Law (IHL)? Do you want a chance at winning \$200 as well as being published in a Red Cross magazine? If you said yes to either question, [sign up for the 2022 IHL Essay and Art Competition](#). Applicants are challenged to explore topics within this year's theme, *Preserving Cultural Property*, through an essay or art piece. Submissions must be emailed to [IHL Youth](#) by 11:59 p.m. ET on January 28, 2022. We look forward to seeing your work.

What is YouthWire?

Created by your National Youth Council, YouthWire is a monthly e-newsletter containing important Red Cross youth volunteer opportunities, stories, and resources for youth, young adults and youth champions! We are always looking to highlight great stories and want to hear what awesome things are happening in your region!

Let us know what's new for you!

Questions about youth volunteering with the American Red Cross?
Email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org

Get Social and Share!

Follow our Facebook and new Instagram page for updates, events and reminders!

Facebook: [@AmericanRedCrossYouthNetwork](#)
Instagram: [@americanredcrossyouth](#)

Share this newsletter with your peers and friends or have them email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org to [subscribe to our newsletter](#).

Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!

The time you spend volunteering is critical to the American Red Cross. It is important that volunteer hours are submitted through Volunteer Connection so that they can be tracked as part of the overall mission.

Help us tell the story of the incredible impact of youth & young adults have by logging your hours today! Use this helpful [tip sheet](#) to walk through how to submit your volunteer hours on [Volunteer Connection](#)!



[Unsubscribe](#) from YouthWire

Thank you so much for your work, Za'hyre! We can't wait to see how else you will make a difference.

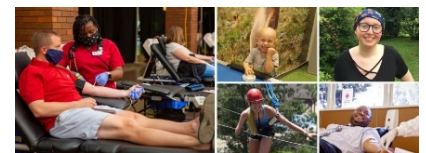
National Blood Donor Month



January is National Blood Donor Month! Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. To meet this demand, the Red Cross must collect 13,000 pints of blood each day. However, with the ongoing pandemic, the Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. This threatens essential medical care such as transfusions and major surgeries.

Blood donations are needed now to help patients make a comeback this winter. Please schedule a donation appointment at rcblood.org/appt. Furthermore, all who come to give will be entered for a chance to win either [a trip to Super Bowl LVI in LA or a Big Game at Home package + \\$500 e-Gift](#). Thank you!

January Fundraising Highlights



As the largest single supplier of blood products in the U.S., the Red Cross works to meet the demand for blood and provide a safe and reliable supply whenever and wherever it is needed. However, we can't do it alone. Today, we encourage you to organize [a charity livestream fundraiser benefiting Mission Red: Blood Saves Lives](#) so you can help ensure that lifesaving blood will be there for patients in need. You will be supporting the network that makes the collection, testing, processing and delivery of lifesaving blood possible. Get started today!