

IKS CLUB NEWS



LifeStream is a private, non-profit comprehensive blood center founded in 1951 by the medical societies of the two counties for the purpose of maintaining an adequate and safe blood supply. LifeStream operates five donor centers, and conducts community blood drives daily, to receive the 500 donations needed every day to support the current needs of patients, including surgery and trauma cases, transplant recipients, premature infants and cancer patients.

Whole blood is not the only type of collection LifeStream handles. There are automated collections of necessary blood component such as platelets, plasma and red blood cells. Since 1951, more than 2.8 million blood and blood component donations have been received. They have also recruited and registered over 25,000 blood marrow donors for the National Marrow Donor Program.

Are YOU a blood donor?

IKS Director, Bob Henry, is: every two weeks he takes time out to share this life-giving substance with those in the Inland Empire who need it. Sometimes he donates for a specific patient; other times his blood goes into the pool for whatever need arises.

As his first act as a new director, Bob proposed we (the club) establish an IKS “Community,” a “Donor Club” that would benefit every member of IKS. Once a community is registered with *LifeStream*, the new name for the Blood Bank of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, the only requirement is that the club make 24 donations within every calendar year. That’s just two donations a month, given by any two members, and specifying the IKS community plan at the time of the donation so we would receive the credit.

In return, if we maintain the donations, all members of the club, including spouses and dependent children, whether they have donated personally or not, will be able to receive blood without charge (if their insurance doesn’t cover the cost of the blood products). “Blood products” does not include blood testing or other blood-related hospital charges; it includes only the cost of the product itself that is used.

Following a favorable vote, Bob was asked to begin the necessary paperwork to establish our donor group. The Board probably has enough donors that we could satisfy the requirements ourselves—Bob could do it on his own!—but we would hope that many members would get involved as new donors to help the community at large and to benefit the club.

There is no greater way to give of yourself than to donate blood. Visit your local LifeStream Blood Center and make your donations to the Inland Koi Society. This will give our club the credit and will make you feel good that you have helped someone in need. It’s a little thing with a huge pay-off, as anyone who has been in desperate need of transfusion can attest.