



Season Greetings to all our Partners For Life Coordinators and Donors!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support and contribution to the Partners for Life programme. We appreciate that organising a group of people to donate blood has its challenges, especially with everybody's busy schedules, lifestyles and work commitments. Despite this, you have continued to support and champion this very worthwhile cause and we are very grateful for the effort and time you've dedicated.

A very BIG thank you to all contributing companies and organisations, you have been awesome!

So from the many patients who have received lifesaving blood products, "THANK YOU"! Saving lives – it's what we do everyday and your help has made a huge difference in a lot of people's lives in New Zealand!

To date this year, we have collected 5377 donations from donors who belong to our Partners for Life Programme which is fantastic.

We are always trying to recruit new donors to our pool as it's an ongoing challenge to maintain sufficient numbers on our donor database to meet existing clinical demand. Please consider bringing a friend or work colleague next time your

group donates. Some people just need that extra prod, so go ahead and ask them. You may also want to consider a company challenge, is there another company you would like to extend a challenge to? We are very keen to hear of any ideas you may have that will encourage more people to donate – just send us an email or contact your NZBS Donor Recruiter.

This is only the second edition of Partners' Voice so we hope you enjoy the bits and pieces of information about our service and reading snippets about what some of our staff are up to.

If you have any thoughts on how we can improve the Partners' Voice Newsletter or you would like to contribute to it please let us know.

On behalf of the management team and all the staff at New Zealand Blood Service we would like to wish you and your families a safe & happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. Take care during your holiday break and we look forward to seeing everyone next year!

Resources are available to help recruit blood donors and include posters, sign-up sheets, brochures, videos, and pull up displays. If you would like to request some resources or find out more about Partners for Life please contact your local donor recruiter or contact us on donors.national@nzblood.co.nz.



PARTNERS FOR LIFE

Donor Recruiter Profile

Hi, my name is Jodie Houltram and I am the Donor Recruiter/Apheresis Coordinator for Tauranga.

I have been doing this role for just over 5 years, with a small break last year to have my first child. I love my job, I get to meet some great people and as my role consists of picking up groups to come in and donate blood, I am able to get outside and enjoy the beautiful Bay of Plenty weather.

My job consists of 2 roles:

A large part of my job is working with my regular Partners for Life groups, organising them every 3 months to let their staff out for an hour or so to come in and donate as a group.

And as we are always looking for new businesses to join Partners for Life, I am always on the lookout for businesses and groups that want to give something back to the community. I find the best way to get new businesses/groups on board is to talk to the donors that come into our rooms and get them involved in helping recruit their workmates.

Our coordinators make the world of difference when it comes to getting groups in, and we are always so grateful when staff are allowed out to donate.

I also go into businesses and do presentations at staff meetings, or set up What's My Type events so staff can find out what their blood type is and we can answer any questions they may have.

Another huge part of my job is recruiting plasma donors. Tauranga introduced plasma in Oct 2012, and we have managed to recruit nearly 350 plasma donors. But as the need for plasma grows, so does the need for more donors. We are seeing Partners for Life groups starting to come in to do plasma, so we can offer both choices to businesses.

When I'm not running around Tauranga picking up donors, I also enjoy getting our name out there.

We like to attend shows like the Womens Expo and the Home and Leisure Show.

We set up stalls in Bayfair and the BOP Polytechnic Open Day to do What's My Type events.

And we like to participate in community run events like the Breast Cancer Walk.

Tauranga has such a great community so we are lucky we have great people and businesses that support us, we couldn't do it without you.



New Travel Tool

Travelling is often described as a 'rite of passage' for Kiwis, so New Zealand Blood Service (NZBS) has created a 'Donating After Travelling' tool to help inform you of when you can next donate blood after returning from your overseas trip.

NZBS is committed to ensuring a safe and secure blood supply for all New Zealanders, which is why there are strict protocols in place for donating blood after you have visited other countries.

Some countries carry a greater risk of exposure to certain diseases which can result in symptomless infection(s) that can be transmitted through blood transfusion. Because of this, if you have travelled to certain countries, please check the 'Donating after Travelling' tool before your next donation.

The 'Donating After Travelling' tool can be found on the NZBS website where you can enter in the country you have recently

visited, or click on the world map, to determine if there was an infection risk in the country you visited.

If the tool determines that you are not eligible due to your recent travel, you will be advised how long you should wait before donating next.



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Company Profile

Partners for Life – Spookers November 2014

The staff from Spookers Scream Park initiated joining the Partners for Life program to come into Mt Smart on Halloween due to a large number of them being personally affected though family or friends needing blood transfusions.

With it being Halloween the Spookers staff dressed in their scary costumes and got into character to make it a fun day for them as well as the NZ Blood Service staff and other donors alike who happen to be there on the day.

In total 30 people from Spookers donated blood on the day to “give back” to the community to help others who need it as their loved ones did.

Thanks to the fantastic staff at Spookers for approaching the NZ Blood Service to give life saving blood and for show casing a taste of what to expect at Spookers.



Recipient Story

“Our son would not have been able to enjoy the life he has now without the generous donors of blood. This along with the dedicated medical staff and facilities are a significant reason our son lives today”
Tesha (mother).

Cham has had more than 30 blood transfusions since he was born.



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