



Blood Drive Report
Fayetteville, AR
2012

The 2012 Annual “Muslims for Life” Blood Drive was held here in Fayetteville, AR on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of September. Like last year, we worked with the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO) and we could not have carried this out without them. Al-Islam Students Association was proud to have hosted the blood drive in honor of 9/11 for the second year in a row. My name is Sofia Naseem and I am president of AISA at the University of Arkansas. I am a sophomore majoring in pre-professional kinesiology.

AISA was formed in the wake of 9/11. Along with the hijacking of the planes and all of the lives lost, we believe the religion of Islam was also a victim, and is still today. We feel it is our duty as Muslims to inform and teach people by clearing up misconceptions and showing that the majority of Muslims are good citizens and are even willing to organize and participate in an event supporting civic duty, helping the less fortunate, and upholding the sanctity of life itself.



Community members and students were happy to donate and volunteer for the blood drive and thanked us for the opportunity to participate in the meaningful cause of standing up for a misrepresented and misunderstood religion. On the morning of the 11th, we were able to hold a Peace Observance Ceremony where our chancellor, David Gearhart, came and gave a moving speech. Afterwards, the Vice Provost for Diversity, Charles Robinson, gave a short speech and led a moment of silence. A Quran exhibition was also hosted during the drive. The room was filled with news reporters and journalists. We were glad to have so much attention from the local media surrounding our event. By the end of the third day of the blood drive, we had collected 203 pints of blood from the 263 people who came to donate, which was more than what we collected last year. Inshallah next year, we will be even more successful. Here are some online links to our local news which covered our event:

<http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2011/sep/11/thrust-spotlight-20110911/>

<http://5newsonline.com/2012/09/11/local-groups-observe-911-anniversary/>

<http://www.thecitywire.com/node/23905#.UKHQpESm47t>

<http://5newsonline.com/2012/09/10/ua-islamic-group-remembers-911/>

http://nwahomepage.com/fulltext?nxd_id=364592

<http://www.nwaonline.com/xx/videos/2012/sep/12/6996/>

<http://ahmadiyyatimes.blogspot.com/2012/09/usa-univ-of-arkansas-islamic-group.html>