

Muslims for Life: Blood Drive 2011 Report

Al-Islam Student Association at the University of Arkansas was created after 9/11. Each year we do something to remember and honor the event. Last year we organized an interfaith gathering where people of all backgrounds and religions came together to share their stories. This year, we partnered with the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks to host a Blood Drive on September 6, 7, and 8, and also extended to the 12 because we had so many people sign up. We campaigned by setting up a table outside on campus for 4 days where we had T-shirts and brochures on display along with the sign-up sheets. We also campaigned at the Islamic Center for a day, at Downtown Fayetteville for 2 days, and at Saint Paul's Church for a day. We had almost 300 people sign up and our goal was only 100.

During the days of the actual blood drive, we had a table where we put out snacks and pizza and drinks for the donors to eat before or after giving blood. We brought chairs for them to rest and made sure they were well enough and fully functional before they left to continue their day. Before they left, they would take both our "Muslims for Life" shirts as well as the ones that the Community Blood Center provided. We had a lot of people that did not show up to give blood, but a lot of people just came without signing up anywhere. The only problem we had was too many people, which is not a bad problem to have. It was only hard because they could only take a few people at a time to donate so a lot of people ended up waiting, some for even an hour. Luckily they were all very patient and willing to sacrifice their time as well as blood in order to give back to their community. One professor, a friend of the family, gave his students an opportunity to get 5 bonus points for the class if they came and gave blood. It turned out a really good idea; we had a lot of his students come and we really appreciated his support. Because of the rules of being eligible to donate, about 75 people were turned away that had intentions of giving. In the end, we had a total of 197 blood units and a total of 275 people who showed up to donate.

This blood drive was a complete success and our results were better than expected, thanks to the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks and Al-Islam Student Association. A special note of thanks to Lora Witcher, Waleed Naseem, Hameed Naseem, Mubarka Naseem, Sofia Naseem, Naseer Naseem, GavelyToor, Michelle Christman, Peyton Baker, Reverend Susanne, Brother Yusuf Ibrahim, and Dr. Douglass Adams who all volunteered their time and efforts to contribute and make this blood drive possible.