



Willingboro Lajna Blood Drive Report

Our Regional Missionary and Naib Amir Azhar Haneef Sahib spent greater part of the evening with our volunteers. The blood drive started at 12:30 pm and ended at 7:30 pm. A total of 31 units of blood were collected.

Underwood Memorial Hospital

Woodbury Our second drive took place today at the Underwood Memorial Hospital, and the drive was a great success. By the grace of Allah, we had many more donors than the Red Cross could handle. We were able to collect 194 units of blood - highest ever in the history of this hospital. All the donors were grateful for the opportunity. Many colleagues and friends of our President, Dr. Farooq Padder, had invited their friends and families through personal contact, phone calls, emails and some even used Facebook to promote the drive. One colleague who could not donate herself as she had undergone surgery just a day earlier, sent her whole family (husband, son and daughter) to donate.

The blood drive was held on two separate days.

Al Nasr Mosque, Willingboro

The third blood drive took place at our own mosque which lasted two full days i.e. Saturday Sept 10 and Sunday Sept 11th.

The turnout of donors was so impressive that those who could not be accommodated for donation on Saturday were deferred to Sunday and those who could not donate on Sunday had to wait for the blood drive the following Sunday at a Sunni Muslim Mosque. Some very passionate efforts were made to have the hours of collection extended but due to administrative limitations of Red Cross we had to give in to the Will of God.

On both days of blood drive, arrangements were made for a barbeque party on the mosque premises. Guest donors enjoyed our hospitality and were able to spend some extra time with us and also toured the mosque. A special display of posters of Islamic teachings was organized by the Lajna who also showed the guests around the mosque.

Blood donors were presented with a "Muslims For Life" T-shirt and a key chain that was specially designed and ordered for the occasion by the local Jamaat.

Press releases were emailed and faxed to just about every media outlet in the South Jersey and Philadelphia area. Several calls were also made to area radio stations. As a result some donors came for donation after watching the news on TV, hearing about the blood drive on Radio, reading the news in the local news papers and noticing the signs put up on the front lawns of the mosque and main buildings.

A Jewish friend of the mosque provided us with a computerized list of about 3000 individuals who had in previous years donated blood through the Red Cross. Lajna members helped run a telethon by calling donors on that list. The telethon ran during the donation hours from the mosque premises and also from individual homes in the evening and early hours of the night. This proved to be a very effective tool.

49 units of blood were collected on each of the two days bringing the total to 98.

Sikh Gurdwara

Gurdwara Khalsa Darbar Sahib

The fourth blood drive was held at the Gurdwara Khalsa Darbar Sahib in the neighboring Burlington Township on Sunday September 11th. A long history of interfaith meetings and a sustained effort of regular visits to the Gurdwara along with personal friendship came in handy in holding a blood drive there.

A Lajna member coordinated with the ladies of the Sikh Temple in organizing volunteers for the donation and other administrative details. On the day of blood drive the donors not only came out in good numbers their mood was also very jubilant and demonstrated complete harmony with the idea and theme behind the blood drive. Despite a heavy rejection rate due to frequent travels to India by many participants we were able to collect 31 units of blood

Despite the fact that a concurrent blood drive was being held at our own mosque, delegates from both the Mosque and the Gurdwara were able to visit each others' sites to socialize, share food and support each other in the effort. Special attention was paid by both congregants to observe and respect each others' customs and traditions at the two houses of worship.

A special ¼ page, paid and colored advertisement was placed in a local newspaper for this event. Signs were put up on the front lawns of the Gurdwara and the President of the Gurdwara and his children called all neighboring Gurdwaras to seek their participation.

Sunni Masjid Islamic Society of South Jersey aka Palmyra Mosque

The fifth blood drive was held at a Sunni Masjid, located about 10 miles from our Mosque. After a long period of isolation, the stalemate was finally broken when, four and half years ago, we took the initiative to invite them to a Seeratun Nabi meeting. That meeting was attended by a delegation of three members from that mosque, one of whom also spoke on the seerat of the Holy Prophet. We later joined hands with seven other local mosques to help collect funds for flood victims of Pakistan and also celebrated a joint Eid Milan party.

Consequently, when the idea of a joint blood drive was presented it was accepted warmly.

We trained the youth of Palmyra mosque in knocking on neighborhood doors, businesses and churches. On the day of the blood drive the President of the Palmyra mosque accompanied a member of our mosque and went knocking on doors, distributing fliers and inviting local residents to the event.

The blood drive was held on Sunday, September 18, 2011 from 9 am to 5 pm. After a slow start the drive went smoothly and we were able to collect 31 units of blood.

Hunterdon Medical Center Our sixth blood drive at the Hunterdon Medical Center lasted two weeks. The blood bank of the hospital helped coordinate this effort. The total number of units collected was 43.

College of New Jersey (TCNJ)

The seventh and last blood drive at the College of New Jersey was a result of Lajna efforts exclusively. This blood drive was held on September 29th, 2011. It started at 9 am and ended at 3 pm and a total of 21 units were collected.

All together a total of 446 units of blood were collected.