



about
life

pitch man

one giant party

we need you
(o)h so much

one giant party.

It's a windy Friday morning in November, and Delia Yzaguirre gets to work before the sun comes up. Never mind that it's her day off. Today is blood drive day for Tarrant County employees, and someone has to unlock the room and put up the signs.



Delia has been working for the County for 13 years, and although coordinating the group's four annual blood drives has been part of her job, it's also personal.

"When my daddy was diagnosed with cancer, I saw how blood brought him back to life and gave him another good year," she recalls. "I thought about all those blood drives I had been a part of, and I realized, I'm one of those people we talk about!" Delia shares her story in hopes of motivating others to give.

And it is an easy group to motivate. Tarrant County employees have been hosting blood drives for over two decades. "We have very giving employees here," she says. For the November drive, 62 people signed up. Delia predicted 20 more would walk in.

"That's pretty normal for us. Our blood drives are like one giant party!"

"Delia knows how to spread the word about the blood drive, and tug at the hearts of potential donors when we need it most," says Carter BloodCare Field Recruiter Alicia Todd. Delia herself admits that putting a face on the mission is something that works well. Of course, prizes and promotions never hurt. She's also learned to "snag the new hires." "I send flyers through our new employee orientation to let people know this is a great chance to give back."

Roxana Orozco is one of those "snags." She started working in Tarrant County's Tuberculosis Unit two years ago. Soon after being hired, Roxana gave blood for the first time. And then there are long-termers like Craig Maxwell, who works in the Auditor's Office and is also a 12-gallon donor. Craig first gave on the bus in 1996. "It's always been my way of giving back," he says.




Last August, Tarrant County employees teamed up with Fox Sports Southwest as part of their "Saving 1000" Friday blood drive. It was, again, like one giant party, and in the end, 130 employees gave blood.

And with November's numbers added, Tarrant County employees have given a grand total of almost 8,000 units of lifesaving blood. Delia says it's been a team effort. So thank you Tarrant County Commissioners Court, facilities, county personnel – and of course – thank you Delia!



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pitch man.

Last July, nine-year-old Collin Boyd was invited to throw out the first pitch for the Texas Rangers game against the Minnesota Twins. Accepting the invitation was a no-brainer for the Little League pitcher. He's a huge fan. So to prepare for the big moment, Collin threw pitch after pitch to his dad in their front yard. The day before the game, he also received a blood transfusion.



Collin was diagnosed just months earlier with undifferentiated soft tissue sarcoma. That's a big name for any kid to know – let alone fight. But his battle has been nothing short of inspiring to his family, to his community, and last summer to thousands of Texas Rangers fans.

The blood transfusion Collin received the day before the game wasn't the first – and it wouldn't be the last. Transfusions have played a big role in the success of his treatment, a fact that does not for a minute escape the Boyd family.

Since Collin's diagnosis, the Boyd family has received an outpouring of support from the Tyler community. Like when his team the Diamond Jaxx organized a benefit baseball tournament in Collin's honor. Close to 450 Little Leaguers played ball and helped raise nearly \$40,000 to help offset the cost of treatment.

And then there was batting practice with Texas Rangers Josh Hamilton, any kid's dream come true; and of course, throwing out the first pitch at the Rangers game. Carter BloodCare had a bus parked at the ballpark that day for fans to give blood. Many said Collin was their reason for giving.

Last August, Collin's tumor was removed in a three-hour surgery. Margins were clean and his lungs were clear, which was great news. He completed chemotherapy in October and radiation in November, and is today considered in remission by his physicians. But the very best news came when Collin was released to play ball again. "He was more excited about that more than anything else!" his dad said. "He's an inspiration – and so resilient. He has a great outlook, and I think he's doing a great job."



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