

Crows donate blood

By Jeff Simpson
Phi Kappa

⌘ What's red, liquid, weighs about a pound, and saves lives? If you answered a pint of blood, you're right!

Blood donation and its many aspects have been a major part of Phi Kappa's philanthropy projects for the past three years. Phi Kappa's involvement in the University of Illinois Blood Program started in the fall of 1977 when two Brothers posed the question, "who is in charge of coordinating Greek blood donors?" Since there wasn't an active blood donation system for the Greeks at that time, the Brothers of Phi Kappa decided to organize Greek blood donation on the campus.

Since 1977, through continuous persistence and hard work on the part of several Brothers, the Greek Blood donation Program has grown to a strong, effective, and well-organized system within the Illinois Greek system.



Giving blood can save lives.



Phi Kappa Brothers organized the interfraternity blood drive.

Photo by Mike Berger.

Blood Committee

Today, Brother Jeff Simpson coordinates the newly formed "Greek Blood Donation Committee," which will be added as a committee to the Inter-Fraternity Council Program. Brothers Mike Hughes and Jim Sperelakis are among the 18 members who comprise the Greek Blood Donation Committee.

The committee is responsible for informing individual House blood coordinators of dates of campus bloodmobiles, educating their donors, and scheduling in-house bloodmobiles. A new feature of the committee this year is the "emergency calling system." The calling system enables the local Red Cross or Blood Bank to locate needed blood types by calling a house and finding eligible donors on the "emergency calling list."

Brothers Hughes and Sperelakis are working closely with Jeff Simpson so that they can coordinate the committee next spring and continue the program in the years to come.

In-House Program

Phi Kappa has continued its role in the blood program by sponsoring five in-house bloodmobiles since the program was started. This fall's

bloodmobile was held Oct. 7 at the Chapter House. Nurses and staff from the Champaign County Blood Bank were on hand to draw the blood. A total of 37 pints was collected, surpassing our goal of 30 pints. There were 17 first-time donors.

The staff from the blood bank were especially pleased with the large number of first-time donors because they are essential to any strong blood program and usually become donors for life.

Because of the convenience and high productivity of the bloodmobiles sponsored by Phi Kappa, other Greek houses have responded with similar bloodmobiles. The Greek Blood Donation Committee has scheduled four other in-house bloodmobiles for the remainder of the fall semester.

What was started three years ago and pushed by much time and hard work on the part of several Brothers has resulted in a successful branch of the University of Illinois Blood Program. Phi Kappa will continue its participation in community blood donation in the future and work in coordination with The Greek Blood Donation Committee. ⌘