



Banner Casa Grande
Medical Center

For Immediate Release

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Banner Casa Grande employee receives national award for organizing unique blood drives

CASA GRANDE, Ariz. (April 22, 2015) — America’s Blood Centers, or ABC, recently awarded Banner Casa Grande Medical Center employee Karen Pitman with a national award: the “Most Creative Blood Drive – Large Facility.” Pitman, who works as an administrative secretary in the lab at the hospital, was given this prestigious award on March 23 during the organization’s 53rd annual meeting in Arlington, Virginia.

Banner Casa Grande hosts five blood drives every year in hopes of encouraging community members to give a little of their time and selves to become a hero. But what makes Pitman’s blood drives unique is that she makes them special to those who are donating their time and the precious gift of life. For example, she provides homemade treats and creates a theme. This concept of giving back to the donors has paid off handsomely through the years, since they’ve collected enough blood to save more than 500 lives.

“I like to mix it up a bit and give donors something to look forward to,” Pitman said. “Something fun that can take their mind off of the actual donation process because, let’s face it, no one likes being stuck with a needle.”

Pitman has been coordinating blood drives at the hospital for about seven years along with her co-coordinator Claudia Sanchez, and with the help of longtime Banner Casa Grande Medical Center volunteers Shirley Nash and Dee Huether. As for the award she received from ABC, less than 20 are given out each year to coordinators and leaders.

“There are so many people working hard, just like me. I was absolutely humbled to be singled out and honored to be a part of something so meaningful,” Pitman said.

Banner Casa Grande Medical Center is a full-service, community hospital providing comprehensive quality care to the Casa Grande Valley as well as the surrounding communities of western Pinal County. The hospital offers a variety of medical specialties including: cardiology, gastroenterology, gynecology, neurology, oncology, pediatrics, psychiatry and urology. Banner Casa Grande is part of Banner Health, a nonprofit healthcare system with 28 acute-care hospitals in seven states. For more information, visit www.BannerHealth.com/casagrande.

America's Blood Centers' member organizations make up North America's largest network of non-profit community blood centers, collecting an average of 19,000 pints of blood daily. Recognized by the U.S. Congress for its critical work in patient care and disaster preparedness and response, these 67 Independent blood centers operate more than 600 blood donation collection sites providing half the U.S. blood supply to over 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities. They help to guarantee there is product available the average of every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood.

In Arizona, the member organization for ABC is Blood Systems. Founded in 1943 as the Salt River Valley Blood Bank in Phoenix, today Blood Systems is one of the nation's oldest and largest blood service providers. Their non-profit, community blood centers include United Blood Services (UBS) which is where Banner Casa Grande Medical Center receives all of its life-saving blood supply from. It is only through the generosity of donors that there is ample supply to save lives.

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