

THURSTON COUNTY

Proclamation

Blood Donor Month

WHEREAS, on December 31st, 1969, President Richard Nixon proclaimed January as National Blood Donor Month, and praised the generosity of the American people, declaring: “*No manifestation of this generosity of spirit is more expressive, and no gift more priceless in time of personal crisis, than the donation of one’s blood. The voluntary blood donor truly gives life itself.*”; and

WHEREAS, even with an average of 6.8 million blood donors giving the gift of blood each year, blood donations are always needed; and

WHEREAS, with winter being one of the most difficult times of year to collect enough blood products to meet patient needs, as a result of cancelled blood drives due to inclement weather, as well as seasonal illnesses, causing some donors to become temporarily unable to donate; and

WHEREAS, every day in the United States, approximately 39,000 units of blood are required in hospitals and emergency treatment facilities for patients with cancer and other diseases, as well as for organ transplant recipients, and to help save the lives of accident victims; and

WHEREAS, every three seconds, someone in the United States needs blood, and a single accident victim may require as much as 100 pints of blood; and

WHEREAS, blood donations are needed more than ever after large scale emergencies, especially since it cannot be manufactured, and can only come from generous donors; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood at any given time, but less than 10 percent of the eligible population donates each year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Thurston County Board of Health hereby proclaims January as **Blood Donor Month** to increase public understanding of the importance of blood donation and urges community members to donate toward this lifesaving cause.

ADOPTED this fourteenth day of January 2020

BOARD OF HEALTH





