

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Mayor Weiers Accepts Vitalant's Impact Award on Behalf Glendale Community**

On Friday, February 23, 2024, Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers accepted Vitalant's Impact Award for 2023 on behalf of the Glendale community. Mayor Weiers received the award at Vitalant's Valentine's for Life Luncheon held at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa.

Vitalant's Valentine's for Life event is a "celebration of all the hard work and contributions of blood drive coordinators and community leaders."

Mayor Weiers and the City of Glendale's Employee Wellness Committee worked with long-time partner, Vitalant, to save a life at his 6th Annual Mayor's Blood Drive, exceeding the mayor's goal of 75 units and 85 successful donations, with a total of 100 units donated.

"Because this was our 6th Annual Blood Drive with Vitalant, we have learned a lot over the years to make this life-saving opportunity as convenient and rewarding as possible," said Mayor Weiers. "So, exceeding our goal was not surprising. The all-day event allowed ample time for individuals with varied schedules to step up and donate. I am so grateful to everyone who joined us and made it possible."

The Impact Award is Vitalant's highest honor. Of the 1,200 organizations that held blood drives in 2023 in the state of Arizona, under 70 earned this honor.

The keynote speaker for Vitalant's Valentine's for Life event was former Phoenix Police Officer Jason Schechterle, who required over 50 blood transfusions during an accident while on-duty in 2001.

"Officer Schechterle's inspiring story brings into sharp focus the need for my office to continue our blood drive tradition," said Mayor Weiers. "I feel certain that the 7th Annual Blood Drive will exceed expectations again. I know that I am already looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and making a "Power Red" donation in 2025."

**BACKGROUND:**

Vitalant has served the Valley for over 80 years, beginning in 1943, as the Salt River Blood Bank. The company has its national headquarters and their testing facilities in Arizona to support local patients. Vitalant donors in Arizona provide over 200,000 units of blood each year.

Vitalant is one of the nation's largest nonprofit blood and biotherapies healthcare organizations, providing hospitals and patients across the U.S. a safe blood supply.

On December 31, 1969, the U.S. president designated January as National Blood Donor Month. Mayor Weiers declared January 2024 as Vitalant Blood Donor Month.

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