



## SHARE A PINT WITH A GRATEFUL STRANGER!

Gamma Upsilon Graduate Chapter Annual Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive

Share a pint with a grateful stranger! This statement took on a different meaning on September

5, 2009 as the men of the Gamma Upsilon

Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc

held their annual blood drive. As in the

past, the local chapter of Delta Sigma Theta

Sorority partnered with us to make this

event happen. The event is held in honor of



Dr. Charles R. Drew (1904-1950). It was Dr. Drew who invented the technique for long term plasma storage, and was the 1<sup>st</sup> Director of the American Red Cross Blood Bank.

This year's event saw the best attendance yet, with a total of 26 donors providing 22 pints of life saving blood and shattering our goal of 15 pints. With September being Sickle Cell

Anemia Awareness Month, we were proud to have this event in

the heart of the African American community. Sickle cell anemia

affects more than 70,000 people in the United States, and most of

them are African-American. One in every 12 African-Americans

carries the trait for sickle cell disease. Sickle cell anemia causes

red blood cells to form in an abnormal crescent shape, which

don't move easily through your blood vessels. They're stiff and

sticky and tend to form clumps and get stuck in the blood vessels.



Carol and Cheryl Brewer with Sickle Cell carrier Jace Young

Patients with sickle cell anemia can get lung damage, kidney

damage, bone and joint problems, severe anemia and pain. A scheduled blood transfusion can

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help reduce the pain associated with sickle cell disease. Transfusions from blood donors of the same ethnic background are even more beneficial because they have less chance of causing complications for the recipient. We were honored to have Jace Young in our presence to see what we were doing towards this cause. She is an 18 y/o with Sickle Cell disease.

This event also captured 4 first time donors.

One of which, Willena Beemer, was the recipient of a blood transfusion that saved her life years ago.

This is a testament to the fact that the number one reason people say they don't donate blood is because they were never asked. Willena and 3 others were

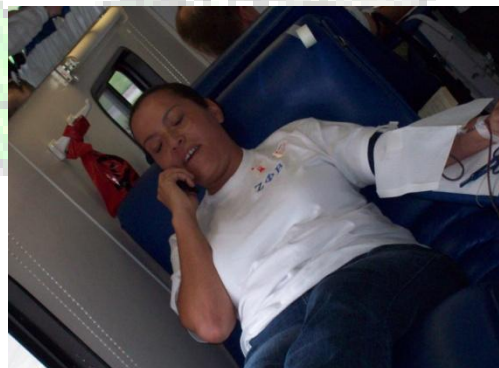


asked and started what we hope will be a life long commitment to donating blood.

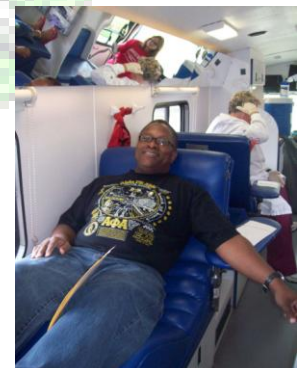
In addition, the local members of the NPHC came out in numbers to support this great event. The local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority gave everyone a taste of what Greek Unity was all about. They provided a BBQ feast fit for royalty, and stayed all day to make sure everyone had plenty to eat and drink.



**BreAnna Monk from the local Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.**



**Cheryl Brewer from the local Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.**



**Marcus Maxwell, President of the local Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.**

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