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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

High School Students Celebrated as Local Life Savers

The Community Blood Center awards more than \$20,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors and honors 205 students with the status of "Gallon Grad."

Appleton, Wis. (June 7, 2019) – The [Community Blood Center](#) (CBC), a local non-profit organization supplying life-saving blood and platelets to hospitals in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (U.P.), has awarded \$23,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors and has granted 205 graduating seniors with the status of Gallon Grad.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the many accomplishments of our high school students," shared Kristine Belanger, Vice President of Donor Services, CBC. "These students are the future of blood donation, ensuring our communities have the necessary blood supply to meet our hospital and patient demands. Their early commitment to donation and advocacy is truly a heroic act and we are honored to support them through the scholarship and Gallon Grad programs."

The high school scholarship program provides an opportunity for CBC to support local students pursuing higher education. The scholarship application process asks students to create a project that will educate and inspire individuals on the importance of a lifelong commitment to blood donation. Twenty-three thousand dollars in scholarships were awarded to 35 students at 24 high schools in amounts of \$500, \$1,000 and \$2,000. Student scholarship applications and projects are submitted to a committee at their high school for evaluation and selection. Kaukauna High School had four scholarship recipients, followed by Appleton West High School, with three. *A full listing of high schools with scholarship recipients is included at the end of this release.*

Examples of scholarship work include brochures, personal essays, educational essays, a website, a blog entry, song lyrics and even a painting on a canvas. All work completed was to educate others on blood donation and to encourage the community to give. *An example of a student project is included with this press release – an awareness poster created by Grace Kobussen of Kaukauna High School.*

This spring, CBC recognized 205 graduating high school students as Gallon Grads. These students provide inspiration to their classmates and communities on the importance of dedication and commitment to lifelong blood donation. This year, 35 area high schools had Gallon Grad recipients. Kaukauna High School had the most number of Gallon Grads, with 36 students being recognized. *A full listing of high schools with Gallon Grad students is included at the end of this release.*

The CBC Gallon Grad Program is a unique opportunity for high school students to impact their communities and be recognized for their commitment to blood donation. Throughout high school, a student completes requirements related to blood donation to earn their way to achieve Gallon Grad status. Students must complete two of the four options, which include: donating blood a minimum of three times, recruiting five new blood donors, volunteering at a blood drive or donor center for a minimum of five hours, or hosting their own blood drive. Students can complete the donate, recruit and volunteer options twice as a way to meet the total of the two requirements. While the majority do, students are not required to donate blood to earn Gallon Grad status. Students must be 17-years-old to donate blood, or can be 16-years-old with parent permission.



“What’s especially rewarding,” adds Belanger, “is watching these high school students encourage their classmates, teachers or parents to get involved. They are educating their family and friends on the importance of lifelong blood donation, and are inspiring others to take action.”

CBC awards the scholarships and Gallon Grad achievements annually in spring to graduating high school students. Information on the 2019-2020 high school scholarship and Gallon Grad programs will be available September 2019.

High Schools with Gallon Grad Recipients:

- Appleton North High School (6)
- Appleton West High School (2)
- Berlin High School (1)
- Brillion High School (1)
- Chilton High School (13)
- Crandon High School (3)
- Fox Valley Lutheran High School (9)
- Freedom High School (8)
- Hilbert High School (1)
- Hortonville High School (13)
- Kaukauna High School (36)
- Kimberly High School (14)
- Lakeland Union High School (1)
- Little Chute High School (1)
- Lourdes High School (1)
- Manawa High School (1)
- Manitowoc Lutheran High School (1)
- Menasha High School (6)
- Mishicot High School (3)
- Neenah High School (18)
- New London High School (1)
- Oshkosh North High School (1)
- Oshkosh West High School (2)
- Princeton High School (1)
- Reedsville High School (2)
- Rhineland High School (2)
- Seymour High School (10)
- Shiocton High School (1)
- St. Mary Catholic High School (14)
- Valley Christian High School (1)
- Waupaca High School (1)
- Wautoma High School (1)
- Weyauwega/Fremont High School (1)
- Winneconne High School (7)
- Wrightstown High School (1)
- Xavier High School (20)



High Schools with Scholarship Recipients:

Appleton West High School (3)
Brillion High School (1)
Chilton High School (1)
Fox Valley Lutheran High School (1)
Freedom High School (2)
Hilbert High School (1)
Hortonville High School (3)
Kaukauna High School (4)
Kimberly High School (1)
Lakeland Union High School (1)
Lourdes High School (1)
Manitowoc Lutheran High School (1)
Menasha High School (1)
Merrill High School (1)
Mishicot High School (1)
Neenah High School (2)
New London High School (2)
Reedsville High School (1)
Rhineland High School (1)
Seymour High School (2)
Shiocton High School (1)
St. Mary Central High School (1)
Weyauwega/Fremont High School (1)
Xavier High School (1)

The Community Blood Center was established in 1955 and continues today as an independent nonprofit providing a safe and reliable blood supply to hospitals in Northeast Wisconsin, the Northwoods and upper Michigan. CBC has donor centers in Appleton, Oshkosh, Little Chute and Woodruff, and hosts over 100 blood drives every month. For more information on blood donation or hosting a blood drive, please visit communityblood.org or call 800-280-4102.

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