



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:**

Jessica Wheeler  
(602) 546-0824  
(602) 202-2229 (pager)  
[jwheeler1@phoenixchildrens.com](mailto:jwheeler1@phoenixchildrens.com)

Sue Thew, United Blood Services  
(480) 675-5454 office  
(602) 295-3281 cell  
[sthew@bloodsystems.org](mailto:sthew@bloodsystems.org)

**UNITED BLOOD SERVICES ANNOUNCES ARIZONA'S LARGEST BLOOD DRIVE TO SAVE LIVES**

***July 3 "Save Our Summer" Event at US Airways Center Promises Family Fun, Prizes***

PHOENIX, Ariz. (July 2, 2007) – United Blood Services is asking Valley residents to declare independence from blood shortages by donating at the Second Annual "Save Our Summer" event on July 3. The Arizona Diamondbacks, Kiwanis International, Phoenix Children's Hospital, Phoenix Suns and Valley Saturn retailers have all teamed up with United Blood Services to host Arizona's largest blood drive during the Independence Day holiday week. More than 500 people are expected to roll up their sleeves at US Airways Center in support of Arizona hospital patients. Special surprises are planned for the "Save Our Summer" event, all to make sure that Arizona patients have the blood transfusions they need this summer:

- ***A lucky July 3<sup>rd</sup> donor will be drawn as one of eight finalists to win a new 2007 Saturn AURA***
- ***The first 500 donors will receive a voucher for a free Diamondbacks game ticket***
- ***T-shirts and goodie bags for all donors***
- ***Chances to win autographed sports memorabilia, concert tickets and more***
- ***The Verizon Wireless Gorilla Jungle at US Airways Center will be open for kids***

According to Audrey Gietzen, Executive Director for United Blood Services/Arizona, the Independence Day holiday week is the most difficult time of the summer to ensure hospital patients across the state receive the blood transfusions they need. "While donor vacations reduce the number of people giving blood, heavy traffic on the roads and highways increases the potential for accidents and the need for blood," said Gietzen. "Every 15 minutes, eight blood donors are needed to support the needs of Arizona hospital patients, even in the summer and during holidays."

For more information, call 1-877-448-GIVE (4483) toll free, or visit [www.UnitedBloodServices.org/Arizona](http://www.UnitedBloodServices.org/Arizona). Free parking is available in the US Airways Center garage, off 1<sup>st</sup> Street just south of Jefferson. Give blood. Be a hero. Help United Blood Services declare Independence from blood shortages this holiday!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Save Our Summer" Blood Drive Event**

**Tues., July 3, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**US Airways Center**

201 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix

Call 1-877-448-GIVE (4483)

**About United Blood Services**

United Blood Services has been Arizona's non-profit community blood provider since 1943 and serves patients in 50 Arizona hospitals. The UBS network is one of the nation's oldest and largest non-profit blood service organizations, and is a founding member of America's Blood Centers and the American Association of Blood Banks. For more information on how to "Be a Hero," please call 1-877-448-GIVE toll free or visit [www.UnitedBloodServices.org/Arizona](http://www.UnitedBloodServices.org/Arizona).

**About Phoenix Children's Hospital**

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest free-standing children's hospitals in the nation. The most comprehensive array of pediatric specialists in the State practice at this one organization. The outstanding clinical expertise, as well as high patient volume, and an unwavering commitment to caring only for children, all contribute to Phoenix Children's leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children's, visit the Hospital's website at [www.phoenixchildrens.com](http://www.phoenixchildrens.com).