

DHS 2017 blood drive

Community service for the brave

by Brandon Pizano



Sophomore Holly Young preparing to donate. Photo by Brandon Pizano

The DeKalb High School National Honor Society (NHS) recently hosted its annual blood drive. The blood drive is for people who would like to donate blood to someone in need. As usual, the blood drive was ran by Spanish teacher Mr. Rouse.

As to why Rouse runs the blood drive, he said, "I try to teach these young people develop a good habit of helping save lives, the other is to give our NHS kids an opportunity to host an event like this, and the last is that we get to make a small donation back to the community not only to help save lives but to raise money from the blood drive."

Mr. Rouse has been running the blood drive for awhile now. It all started when he took over as the NHS Advisor. "This is my 14th year as National Honors Society Advisor so we've been doing it for 14 years and we do it two to three times a year."

The blood drive is not the only thing that NHS provides. As far community service goes, Rouse added, "Oh absolutely, pretty much every fun fair that's hosted in any school through out the community. We offer peer tutoring through the NIU Star tutoring on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school, our tutors are available."

He also went on to add that NHS

helps out "at the local retirement home center. We help out at the hospital and a couple of their drives. We also help out at Barb Food Mart, so we help out with a lot of things."

Junior Guillermo Zuniga was patiently waiting for his turn to donate. Sometimes it can be nerve wrecking. However, for somebody who has donated before, it can be a walk in the park. Guillermo calmly stated, "This is my first time [donating] at this school but at my other school, I did it three times."

If it weren't for previously donating Guillermo might have been a bit more hesitant. He said, "I started doing it at my old school whenever they had it, so I just continued doing it."

Why donate blood? Why is it important? Well according to the *American Red Cross*, approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day. Yearly that adds up to 13,140,000 units needed. Also according to the *American Red Cross*, 13.6 million red blood cell units are collected yearly. We as Americans are stepping up and providing a good community service. There are many reasons an individual may need blood, and it is important to keep the banks well supplied.

The students of DHS do their part to help their community. With people in need DHS shows they are ready to step up and help.