

496 give blood to remember Boone student

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Daniel Boone students involved with the 10th annual Angela Hohl Memorial Blood Drive knew they had set a lofty goal with their dream of getting 500 donors.

And when the final needles were cleaned up Tuesday night after the 11-hour drive, the number of registered donors fell just short at 496.

Boone senior Chris Kerr, president of the Daniel Boone Youth Education Association, admitted the final count was bittersweet.

"We're happy because we beat our numbers from last year, but it was so close and we didn't get it," said Kerr, 17.

The drive was held in memory of Angela Hohl, who died in summer 2003 after being diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. She was 17 and preparing to start her senior year at Boone.

While heartbroken, her parents, Harvey and Sue Hohl of Douglassville, wanted to do something to help others in their daughter's name.

While in the hospital, Angela needed 75 to 100 pints of blood during chemotherapy, Harvey said on Tuesday, so organizing a blood drive seemed to be the perfect fit.

"She was the kind of kid that always wanted to fix anybody that was hurt," he said. "We felt this was the best way to give back."

The Hohls held their first drive in November 2003 with about 150 donations going to the Miller-Keystone Blood Center.

As more people got involved, including Boone art teacher Karen Shriner, that number has steadily climbed.

Last year, the number of participants reached 453, prompting students to shoot for 500 donors for the 10th anniversary.

Even though it would have taken only four more donors to hit the goal, the Hohls said they've been amazed by the outpouring from the community.

"It's like the best Christmas present ever," Sue Hohl said.

As a neighbor, Kerr grew up knowing the Hohls. He said Angela even baby-sat him a few times and was his swim instructor at the Amity pool.

"I always knew about the blood drive and wanted to be involved, and now this is my year," he said.

Kerr and Amanda Kijak, vice president of the youth education association, helped organize a school assembly to encourage their peers to donate by sharing Angela's story and facts about leukemia.

And Boone students, those who met the requirement of being at least 17, responded in full force.

"It's amazing seeing all the students who normally would never think about donating blood," said Amanda, 17. "Just hearing her story and not even knowing her but being so touched by it and coming out."

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Theodore Dodson, 17, a senior at Daniel Boone High School, after donating blood Tuesday. Miller-Keystone Blood Center specialist Kim Lacost wields the tone

Chris Remp, left, of Miller-Keystone Blood Center, with donor Shannon Woods, 17, a senior at Daniel Boone High School, at Tuesday's blood drive.