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### HOCKEY WITH A HEART, Part II

Inaugural Give Blood ?? Play Hockey event gives back to the community

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by Jay Piz

September 23, 2007, marked a special day in the life of a very special young lady, Mary Quayle, a senior at Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana California and long-time hockey player as the weekend long Give Blood ?? Play Hockey inline hockey charity tournament held September 21-23 at Irvine ??s 949 Roller Hockey Center came to an end. Tired from months of work and her participation as an organizer and tournament player alike, Mary could now relax knowing that the tournament concept she created had evolved to become a huge success.

As first posted on Inline Hockey Central on September 17, Mary had taken a community service project for school credit and designed to pull hundreds of people together to not only play roller hockey, but to also give their blood and their dollars at the inaugural Give Blood ?? Play Hockey inline hockey charity tournament.

Inspired to give back the blood needed to keep her recently deceased grandfather alive in his final days, Mary seized the phrase ??Give Blood ?? Play Hockey ? and her own passion to help rally a long list of supporters ?? including the Anaheim Ducks and numerous corporate sponsors ?? to produce this well-attended event.

Tournament attendance included 50 youth, high school and adult teams from across the state to compete for the perennial Blood Cup. When not rink side, attendees toured vendor booths, watched raffles and enjoyed family events in a carnival-like atmosphere. On Saturday afternoon, Ryan Getzlaf of the 2007 Stanley Cup winners, the Anaheim Ducks, spoke before an eager crowd of players later joining them for photo opportunities and an autograph session.

??Not only was this a great tournament with terrific competition, the cause alone was worth the registration fee, ? said Mary Quayle. Mary's goals included reaching donations of 100 pints of blood. The rush of donors was overwhelming, as the Blood Mobile operators were challenged to process them all. Mary herself was the 100th donor to mark, achieving her goal.

Mary and her many supporters and volunteers contributed in raising \$32,000 for the Children ??s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) and 107 pints of life-giving blood in a blood drive for the Orange County Blood Bank. A Goal Can campaign succeeded in raising \$1,000 to benefit a young San Clemente, CA hockey player stricken with Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), Evan Cousineau.

??We ??ll do even better next year, ? said Mary. ??And we already have the dates confirmed, October 3-5, 2008. ?

For more information about the Give Blood ?? Play Hockey inline hockey charity tournament, please visit their web site at <http://givebloodplayhockey.org>.

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Mary Quayle was the 100th blood donor, marking the achievement of her goal.



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