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## Orland Park VFW - Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast & Blood Drive - A Grand Success!

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Saturday, October 18 2008 was a beautiful day in Orland Park - and the scene of VFW Post 2604 pairing up with Orland Boy Scout Troop 318 for it's 4th annual Pancake Breakfast & Blood Drive. Though the morning began at 6:00am in the dark and light rain, it was anything but an bad omen for the event. By 7:00 am the skies brightened and cleared, the griddles were steaming with pancakes and sausage and Orland Park's Civic Center was ready for the anticipated crowds. At the same time, LifeSource Blood Drive staff were busy preparing the village's auditorium as a make-shift medical facility for the blood donation volunteers.

The VFW members and the Boy Scouts worked well together throughout the day - the VFW responsible for cooking, ticket sales and raffles - and the Scouts serving the food and beverages - with all helping out at the end with the clean up. The blood drive was under the direction of Troop 318 adult leadership.

By noon, the breakfast was complete however the blood drive continued on until the last donor - a Troop 318 scout - finished with his first experience as a donor. The final numbers have been received and it was a record day for the event with ticket sales topping 330. The blood drive on its own was a tremendous success - generating 31 units of blood - a 50% increase over last year's event. Of the donors, participants included two Life Scouts, six husband-wife teams and one family had three generations donate!

VFW proceeds from the event go to the Manteno Veteran's Home and for homeless veterans in the area. Boy Scout proceeds are utilized for summer camp, equipment purchases and general operating expenses. Proceeds of the blood drive - priceless!

The event is a community day where neighbors come together to share a good meal, the men of the VFW and the boys from Troop 318 work together for a common goal - and everybody leaves with a feeling of "job well done".

*(Click on a photo to see a larger view)*



VFW members cooking the pancakes



Boy Scouts serving the Pancakes



Cooking the pancake outside the Orland Park Civic center



A room full of people enjoying the pancakes



The Scouts & VFW members that made event a success!



31 pints of blood donated

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