

The Pulse

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July 2007

Elizabeth Denson: Committed to Giving Blood

In many ways, Elizabeth Denson is a typical 22-year-old girl. She loves shopping, Hollywood gossip, and Johnny Depp. However, her dedication to donating blood sets her apart from many of her peers.

A 2006 special needs graduate of Columbia-area Irmo High, Denson first donated blood at a school blood drive three years ago and has donated regularly ever since.

"I remember thinking, 'Oh my gosh, she's going to freak out,'" said her mother, Gena Denson. "Not only did she not freak out, she wanted to donate again the next week."

Denson's fascination with donating blood is evidenced by her collection of American Red Cross T-shirts. She and her mother scour thrift stores in search of them, and at last count the collection had reached 15. Denson has also received a few shirts from recruiter Kelly Moore. They met at a blood drive about two months ago and have been buddies ever since.



Blood donor Elizabeth Denson wears one of her many Red Cross T-shirts while she relaxes at her Chapin home.

"Elizabeth is a wonderful role model for blood donors," Moore said. "She proudly wears an American Red Cross T-shirt and a big smile during the entire blood donation process."

Denson volunteered at the WLTX-Clear Channel blood drive in Columbia on June 22, where she greeted blood donors in the canteen. She was excited to get to see Moore and thrilled to meet some of her favorite radio and TV personalities.

Denson's interest in helping others doesn't stop with the Red Cross; she also enjoys helping senior citizens. She volunteers twice a week at the Lowman Home in White Rock, where she works with Alzheimer's patients, and she plays part-time caregiver to an elderly neighbor who suffers from dementia.

As for donating blood, Denson's motivation is pretty simple.

"I like to save lives," she said.

You can be a lifesaver like Elizabeth Denton by donating blood. Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or go to www.DonateBloodToday.org to schedule a blood donation appointment.

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