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UNITED BLOOD SERVICES AND LIFESTREAM TO COLLABORATE IN COACHELLA VALLEY

United Blood Services and LifeStream have announced plans to create Desert Blood Services in a team effort to serve Coachella Valley communities. Long-time area blood provider Community Blood Bank joined United Blood Services in 2009. LifeStream, established in 1951, is the blood provider for San Bernardino and Riverside counties and hospitals in the surrounding area.

For the past three years, both organizations have served hospitals and blood drive sponsors in the Coachella Valley. LifeStream currently serves John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, Desert Regional Medical Center and Hi Desert Medical Center. United Blood Services serves Eisenhower Medical Center, Palo Verde Hospital and Bush Naval Hospital.

“The leaders in both organizations share a strong commitment to the Valley. We felt we could create a better community blood program for both donors and patients by combining our strengths and bringing together the best of what each of us has to offer,” said Rick Axelrod, M.D., president/CEO and medical director for LifeStream.

“As nonprofit organizations, our first responsibility is to the communities we serve. Both of our organizations are strong, with excellent track records for quality and service. By combining our efforts, we can share resources, eliminate duplication of effort and provide high quality blood services to donors and hospitals,” said Dan Connor, president and CEO of Blood Systems, the nonprofit parent organization of United Blood Services.

“This is good news for the Coachella Valley,” said Dan Bowers, CEO of JFK Memorial Hospital. “Here we have two organizations, which, like us, are dedicated to patient wellness. To combine their capabilities in serving local patients is a win-win.”

The two organizations will remain separate entities and continue to serve their customers in other parts of California and the U.S. as they do now. To collaborate in the Valley, they will set up an oversight council that includes two representatives from LifeStream and two from Blood Systems, with LifeStream handling the day-to-day operations.

LifeStream and Blood Systems expect Desert Blood Services to begin serving the community in spring 2012.

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