

Councilman Dan Panico Donates Blood for the Kara's Hope Foundation

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Picture left to right are Councilman Dan Panico, William Floyd High School students Caitlyn Triolo and Deja Magee, and Jeff Williams, father of the late Kara Williams.

Farmingville, NY - On Saturday January 15, 2011, Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico joined with residents from across the Mastic-Shirley community to support the first of many blood drives sponsored by Kara's Hope Foundation. Councilman Panico was one of many residents who participated as a donor in the drive that resulted in 86 pints of blood collected; additionally 8 people signed on to the Organ Donor Registry and several others agreed to be added to the bone Marrow Registry.

Kara's Hope Foundation is named for Kara Lynn Williams, a William Floyd High School Senior who tragically passed away last March after suffering a seizure. Kara, an honor student who planned to study education in college, was dedicated to serving her community; volunteering for Locks of Love, Independent Group Home Living Inc. (IGHL) and the Special Olympics, as well as intending to become an organ donor as soon as she was old enough. To honor her memory and follow her example, Kara's Hope, founded by family and friends, is dedicated to performing good works for the community and supporting causes affecting the youth. Along with future blood drives, a scholarship program and a 5K race are also planned.

"Donating blood is a great way to help save lives," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "I commend all that helped organize this very successful blood drive, specifically Mr. Jeff Williams who has turned tragedy into a very positive life saving endeavor. Mr. Williams is also raising awareness to the need for blood donors and through his efforts lives are being saved. I, along with my wife Deanna and aide John, were happy to donate to this effort and look forward to helping in the future."

"The motto of Kara's Hope Foundation is 'We are dedicated to helping our youth realize their hopes and dreams'" Said Jeff Williams, Kara's father. "With the success of our blood drive netting 86 pints of blood that will be taken to local hospitals, we plan to continue sponsoring blood drives in the future." Mr. Williams also wished to specifically recognize William Floyd High School seniors, Caitlyn Triolo and Deja Magee, who recruited 30 donors each; they will receive \$250 scholarships from LI Blood Services for their efforts.

To be a blood donor you must bring a valid ID, weigh a minimum of 110 lbs, be between the age of 16-75 (16 year olds must have parental consent), eat well and drink fluid, and have no tattoos in the past 12 months; individuals can donate every 56 days. For more information visit www.nybloodcenter.org .

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