

Saurí: «More and more entities are joining in to collaborate»

The Lycée hosts the fifth blood donation campaign, where it is expected to reach 1,500 donations

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA

A time of year is approaching when people are already starting to prioritize gifts and prepare for Christmas in good time. However, what is never lost among Andorran society is the spirit of solidarity, as has been seen throughout this month with the multiple shipments that have been made from the Principality to those affected by DANA in Valencia. Another aspect that has not been forgotten throughout this year is the donation of blood and bone marrow that has been corroborated in the four campaigns of the Andorran Red Cross. The fifth one began just yesterday and will take place throughout this week at the Lycée Compte de Foix, located in Andorra la Vella.

«At the moment, we are in a very stable ratio of donations in the five campaigns we have been running. We hope to reach 1,500 with this last one, if around 100 can be carried out each day. We encourage everyone to come, since the cause requires it», said the general secretary of the Andorran Red Cross, Joan Saurí, at the express request of the media about the balance achieved. Another positive point that Saurí highlighted is the increasing diversity of places that are interested in hosting and collaborating in this way in the blood campaigns: «We started with MoraBanc and the Andorran School and, later, the Lycée Comp-



A nurse attending to a donor on the third floor of the Lycée Compte de Foix.



Joan Saurí

GENERAL SECRETARY
OF THE RED CROSS

«The blood bank is currently experiencing a certain stability, the figures are relatively good with 6,700 liters in reserve»

te de Foix and the University of Andorra also joined. As a novelty, we would like to inform you that next year the Sant Ermengol School will host us», revealed the secretary.

The increasing participation of young people in donations, including «the parents of students from the schools that host the initiatives who are also involved», is another aspect that is undoubtedly to be celebrated, which according to the head of the Red Cross is «very favorable», along with the bone marrow contributions. Regarding the state of the blood bank, Saurí clarified that «it is not currently in such a critical state as in other times, with about 6,700 liters in reserve», but he reminds us that Ch-

ristmas is coming, a complicated time for people who want to donate. «They are quite happy anyway, given that the figure is relatively good», specified the head. The secretary of the health entity also took the opportunity to confirm that tomorrow they will meet with the blood bank in order to establish the definitive calendar and thus specify the exact dates of the next campaign and the places where they will be located. Regarding the number of people registered for this year's last one, Saurí announced that «both yesterday, today and tomorrow, will still be poor days, but that this allows more donors to be able to fit in without an appointment», if this is allowed.

Finally, he also wanted to make a small appeal to encourage people to make such a charitable and rewarding gesture as this, assuring them that «a lot of blood is needed every year to cover chronic illnesses, accidents or natural disasters and it cannot be extracted from anywhere other than a human being» due to the fact that there is no synthetic blood. A personal and charitable good that, according to the secretary of the Red Cross, Andorran society «has shown so far that it is super supportive with donation figures even higher than the whole of Lleida».

Also one of the most veteran volunteers of the Andorran entity was presented, Lluís Dejuan, with more than 30 years of experience

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in the sector, who wanted to ratify that the evolution in the country that he has seen over the years has been «very positive and increasing due to a key awareness that has emerged among the population». For Dejuan, the difference between donations from two decades ago to now is «certainly relevant», and that through the unfortunate misfortunes that are happening, it is seen how the human spirit of the citizens is always evident, recounting that, even, «too much sometimes».

The protocol that the medical team must follow is to label each extraction bag and cross each donor off the list

Elsewhere in the room, one of the donors, Jullien Valliant, finished his charitable contribution and highlighted that he “goes to all the campaigns in the country as a personal appointment», assuring that the action «is good and does not hurt», and that in his particular case, he does it to eliminate iron from his body due to a related problem, as he believes it should be an «almost mandatory gesture to contribute to the good of everyone». On the other side, nurse Mariona Cabrera was preparing to continue attending the ap-



pointments and commented that the protocol to follow is «underscoring each attendee on the list and duly labeling each extraction bag to deliver it to the laboratory». She also added that the puncture is carried out in a large vein located in the flexor angle of the arm to take an adequate sample.

Entering the dining room, one of the people in charge of the hos-

(ABOVE) The catering with fruit and homemade cakes prepared by the Lycée students / (BOTTOM) Two nurses chatting with another of the media present to cover the fifth campaign.

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Lluís Dejuan

MOST VETERAN VOLUNTEER OF THE RED CROSS

«Today's donations have nothing to do with those made decades ago. Nowadays, there is a lot of awareness»

pitality area, Maria Noguera, informed us that some cooking students from the Lycée «have devised a special catering to gain energy for all the participants of the campaign», where when leaving the donation they are invited to taste both salty and sweet food. She reported, according to the results of the previous campaign, that «in the afternoon is when people tend to come more frequently and that the food ends up being consumed all».

Finally, one of the cooking students, Elmas, detailed to EL PERIÒDIC that the banquet consists of quiches, tartlets, fruits, chocolate bars, juices, water and coffee and some products are gluten-free and certainly healthy. «We really like preparing them and creating new products for donors. It is my first year there, but it is exciting», she concluded. ●

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