

# OKLAHOMA BLOOD INSTITUTE

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOURTH ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE: FIRST LADY TO KICKOFF NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH**

First Lady Kim Henry and Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI) President and CEO, John Armitage, M.D., will hold a joint press conference to kickoff National Volunteer Blood Donor Month Tuesday, January 15.

Mrs. Henry will sign a pledge to donate blood throughout this year to help convey the importance of blood donation to the state's health and she will encourage all healthy individuals to donate at least three times in 2008 as well.

Dr. Armitage will address the need for more donors and express appreciation for all loyal blood donors who offer health, hope, healing and comfort to patients in our local communities. OBI anticipates patient need for more than 200,000 blood donations in the coming year.

Also participating in the press conference will be the Reddick family. Melanie Reddick, mother of 5-year-old Blake will explain how generous Oklahoma donors saved Blake's life. Blake was born without a pulmonary heart valve and has undergone four open heart surgeries – two in Tulsa and two in Oklahoma City. Subsequently, both of his sisters have been diagnosed with heart abnormalities which will require surgeries and blood transfusions in the future. These three children are living examples of three excellent reasons for Oklahomans to donate at least three times this year.

National Volunteer Blood Donor Month Kickoff will be held:

Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2006  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: State Capitol, Blue Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor end of East Wing

Participants:

First Lady Kim Henry  
John Armitage, M.D., President and CEO of OBI  
The Reddick Family  
Parents Jeff & Melanie Reddick  
Son Blake, 5  
Daughters Makayla, 10 & Ryleigh, 8  
Grandparents Mike and Sharlotte Campbell  
Grandparents Glen and Renea Reddick