

# **SWOSU Blood Drive Participants Have Chance to Help Young Boy**

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University will be the site of an Oklahoma Blood Institute drive this Monday and Tuesday, September 21-22, and area residents will be able to help a five-month old boy who has a rare blood disorder.

Ridge Cary, the son of SWOSU graduates Brandon and Alisha Cary and grandson of Ron and Cindy Henderson of Weatherford, was diagnosed about two months ago with Multifocal Lymphangioendotheliomatosis with Thrombocytopenia. According to SWOSU Human Anatomy Instructor Sue Ball, it is believed that only 30 people worldwide have this blood disorder.

The blood drive will be held from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Wellness Center on the Weatherford campus. Area residents ages 17 and above are encouraged to attend. If people want to help Cary, they can designate his name when donating.

All donors will receive a free SWOSU blood donor t-shirt, along with free health screenings and Members for Life points to redeem at OBI's online store.

Cary is just one of many patients who need blood. In Cary's situation with the blood disorder, he basically has a very low platelet count that is causing hemorrhaging in the intestinal tract. He has had many blood transfusions during his 50-day hospital stay and will continue to need the blood transfusions.