

## NICARAGUA

World Blood Donor Day was celebrated in Nicaragua with song and dance at a ceremony to honour voluntary blood donors. During the event, attended by outstanding voluntary blood donors, students, government representatives and the media, the President of Nicaraguan Red Cross told how, thanks to the voluntary blood donations of thousands of Nicaraguans, the country had the biggest Blood Bank in Central America.

The Pan American Health Organization representative expressed thanks to all voluntary blood donors, as well as to those organizations that had supported blood drives in the workplace. He noted that even with 21<sup>st</sup> century technological advances, the need for blood to save human lives would still be there. Voluntary blood donors were unsung heroes.

In a very emotional moment, a family told the audience how, seven years ago, the life of their eldest son had been saved through the gift of blood. More recently, because of the blood incompatibility of the parents, their youngest child had been born with serious health problems, and had been saved through a blood transfusion.

The Ministry of Health representative spoke of how it was thanks to voluntary blood donors that blood supplies were secure. She went on to say that new regional blood banks were being constructed, with the support of a cooperative agreement with Luxembourg.

Diplomas of recognition were presented to voluntary donors and organizations with outstanding records of support to blood donation.



