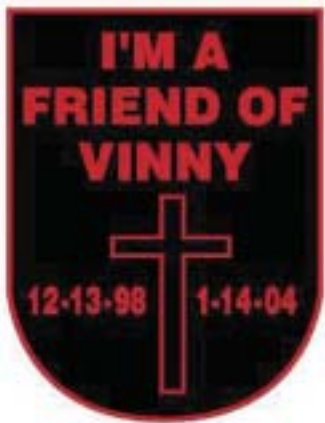




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The Vincent Erato
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MAY DAY BLOOD RUN ROLLED TO SUCCESS

Motorcyclists from across the Midwest hit the open road for a very special kind of drive Saturday, May 1--a blood drive. This annual event is held at Eagle Nation Cycles in Neenah, and the Community Blood Center was on hand to collect blood donations. The Community Blood Center provides 100% of the blood used by Fox Valley hospitals, including Theda Clark Medical Center.

Now in its fifth year, the May Day Blood Run blood drive has grown each year. The event attracts more riders and their families each year, as well as those who just enjoy seeing dozens of motorcycles all in one place. Eagle Nation Cycles received national recognition in 2000 from America's Blood Centers, a national network of independent blood centers, for support of the local volunteer blood program. Blood drive organizer and owner of Eagle Nation Cycles, Steve Erato, said the event has taken on a new meaning this year, after the death of his young son, Vincent. "We started this drive five years ago, and ever since my son died, the need for blood took on a new meaning in my family," Steve said. "We just want to make sure that children, and everyone have blood when they need it."

The goal for this blood drive was 93 donors, and 116 came out to donate! The event was a huge success, and monetary donations were also collected for the Vincent Erato Foundation. The Vincent Erato Foundation helps families in need while receiving treatment at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. The Vincent Erato Foundation made their first donation in May of \$1000 to Children's Hospital of Milwaukee. On June 5, the foundation donated \$1000 to Children's Hospital of Fox Valley, and \$500 to The Head Start Foundation - Neenah (which was Vinny's School). All these donations came from the support of bikers at the May Day Blood Run.

At both Children's Hospitals, a memory board will have Vinny's name on it.

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