

Local nurse and platelet donor demonstrates the importance of community by giving blood



Ascension Seton Hays nurse Roseanna Fulton poses with her son Asa at her 2017 graduation from nursing school. (Courtesy Roseanna Fulton)

By **Anna Herod** | 7:11 am June 19, 2019 CDT



Roseanna Fulton always dreamed of being a nurse—a goal she achieved in July 2017 when she became an emergency room nurse at Ascension Seton Hays.

Although Fulton entered nursing school with the idea of working in the labor and delivery department, she found that she was attracted to the emergency department because of its fast pace and the way it would allow her to help the community. Since Fulton has become a nurse, she has also become a steadfast platelet donor. Platelets are a type of blood cell that allow bodies to form clots and are mostly used to help people control their bleeding, according to Central Texas blood bank We Are Blood.

"I decided to [become a regular donor] because I feel like doing community work is really important," Fulton said. "Working in the emergency department, I actually see the products that are donated being given to patients. I can see the immediate benefits of donating."

Burn victims, premature babies, organ transplant recipients, trauma victims and cancer patients are the primary demographics in need of platelet transfusions, according to the blood bank. The bank is always in need of a steady supply of these donations because platelets have a shelf life of just five days and cannot be stockpiled the way whole blood donations are.