

Recipient Stories



Morgan is a little girl who was diagnosed with a big disease.

Acute myeloid leukemia caused her to need 25 units of red blood cells and platelets. Her mother said, “We are so profoundly grateful for Central Texas blood donors.” And that includes people like you who come in to donate.



Oliver

Oliver was due in October, but was delivered four months early when doctors determined he was not gaining enough weight. He received his first transfusion when he was only hours old and 19 more transfusions before his first birthday. His parents say, “The transfusions gave him the time he needed to grow enough and gain enough strength to survive.”



Max

When only nine years old, Max suffered major injuries after crashing into a dock while tubing behind a boat. Max wouldn't have survived that first night without blood transfusions. Max's mom April says she often thinks about “the people who I don't know, who sat in the chair and donated blood. And Max is here today.”



Officer Dave Erskine

While on motorcycle duty one day, APD Training Officer Dave Erskine sustained severe injuries to both legs and required a significant amount of blood, undergoing more than eight surgeries. Doctors could not save his foot and had to reconstruct one knee. But with physical therapy and the use of a prosthetic foot, Dave is now working as an APD Training Officer at the Police Academy's firing range. “Blood donation saved my life. Thank you.”

Recipient Stories (cont.)



Cami

Before Cami could even say “blood,” she needed it. Born with a rare blood disorder, she required eight blood transfusions before her first birthday. She may need other transfusions as she grows older, but thanks to donors like you, Cami doesn’t have to worry at all.



Kaleb

Kaleb was only two years old when he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. During his initial treatment, Kaleb received blood every couple of weeks and still receives transfusions as needed. Kaleb’s mother, Valerie, says of Central Texas blood donors: “Kaleb’s life truly is in their hands.”



Wally Tallent

Wally is here today thanks to the National Marrow Donor Program and blood and platelet transfusions supplied by donors like you. After being diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, he underwent multiple rounds of chemotherapy before receiving a bone marrow transplant. “It was a real miracle finding a matching marrow donor,” Wally says.



Battalion Chief John Butz

Austin Fire Department Battalion Chief John Butz’s recovery is proof that saving lives by donating blood is in the hands of blood donors like you. After being severely burned, he needed 23 units of blood during the first three weeks of recovery alone. Donate once a quarter to help ensure that life-sustaining blood is available.

Donor Spokespeople

Russell Duke

Russell Duke, Applied Materials' blood drive coordinator for more than five years, became a blood donor when his daughter, Emma, was diagnosed with childhood cancer and received blood transfusions. Russell knows that life truly is in the hands of blood donors. As Russell puts it, "Please consider volunteering to coordinate a blood drive for your company or organization. If your child needed blood, you would want there to be a coordinator" helping to collect life-saving blood.

Angela Bedford

Angela Bedford is the blood drive coordinator for AMD, a company with an exemplary record of blood donation. AMD hosts a blood drive every eight weeks. "We have it down to a science," Angela says. Since 1986, AMD has donated more than 6,700 units of blood to Central Texans in need.

Dan Vasquez

As a youth mentor and an active participant in several service organizations, Dan Vasquez is committed to doing good in his community. One way he does so is through frequent blood donations. Dan, and you, hold the key to saving lives in your community. One blood donation can save up to two lives.

Jim Allday

As a nurse for Austin Travis County EMS STAR Flight team, Jim Allday is often one of the first responders at the scene of an accident. Jim also saves lives away from work by donating blood regularly. "It feels good to give people something anonymously that can really benefit them," Jim says.

Endelia Obregon

A 35+ gallon donor, Enedelia Obregon has saved many lives through her devotion to blood donation. Enedelia first remembers her mother donating blood when she was young. When her mother required a quadruple bypass in 1985, Enedelia "really discovered the need." When she moved to Austin over 20 years ago, Enedelia became a regular donor, saying of blood donation: "It's just so important."

Anne Marie Hanson

Anne Marie Hanson advises the Round Rock H.O.S.A. (Health Occupations Students of America) team, which hosts four drives each year. As a former emergency room nurse, Anne Marie understands the importance of a safe supply of readily available blood and works hard with her team of students to help their community in this way. As Laura, a H.O.S.A. member, puts it, "If you don't donate blood, who will?"

The Taylor Family

Sue, John, Shannon and Allison, all regular blood donors, have made saving lives a family tradition. John first gave blood at a drive sponsored by his work. "I went with a group of about 30 or so colleagues, so I couldn't chicken out." Says his wife Sue, "We think giving blood is an easy way to help the community."