

How Your Donation Makes a Difference



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Who does my gift affect?

Every day blood and blood products are used to treat people in serious medical need—people like Elise.

Elise was born with a life-threatening heart defect. Because of the severity of Elise's illness at birth, her kidneys and liver failed, which compromised her body's ability to clot blood. In order to save her life, Elise had to undergo an eight-hour surgery to fix her heart defect. She required 22 units of whole blood and clotting factors to make her body strong enough for surgery.

Elise's family is very grateful for the selfless donors who donated their time and blood to give Elise a chance at life. Without them, she would not have survived.

Elise is just one of the many people whose lives have been changed by blood donation.

To read more about Elise and other blood recipients, please visit giveblood.givelife.org.



“Thank you to all of the donors who help people like Elise, who so desperately need a second chance at life”

— Terri Punke, Elise's Mom

How can I make an even bigger difference?

- **Be a regular blood donor!** You can donate whole blood every 56 days, up to 6 times a year; platelets every three days (we recommend you donate every 2 - 4 weeks) up to 24 times in a 12-month period; plasma every 28 days, up to 13 times in a 12-month period; and double red cells every 112 days, up to three times in a 12-month period.
- **Volunteer!** Every day generous people support the blood program by volunteering their time.
- **Spread the word!** Tell your friends and family about the difference they can make by donating blood.

How much blood is needed?

MEDICAL NEED	RED BLOOD CELLS	PLATELETS	PLASMA
Accident Victim	4-100 units		
Liver Transplant	10 units	2-6 units	20 units
Cancer/Leukemia Treatment	10-20 units for the treatment course	10-50 units for the treatment course	
Heart Transplant	4-6 units		
Sickle Cell Anemia	10-15 periodically for severe complications		
Open Heart Surgery	2-6 units	2-4 units	2-4 units
Bone Marrow Transplant	10-20 units for the treatment course	10-50 units for the treatment course	
Severe Burns			8 units

Depending on the severity, the ranges above can widely vary.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY BLOOD AFTER I DONATE?

1. AT THE HOSPITAL



You share the gift of life through blood donation.

2. AT THE LAB



The blood can be separated into 3 components — red cells, platelets and plasma.

3. AT THE LAB



Samples of blood components are sent for testing to ensure they're safe for patients.

4. AT THE RED CROSS



The blood components are sent to the hospital as needed.

5. AT THE HOSPITAL



Doctors determine when a patient needs a transfusion and which component they need.

6. AT THE HOSPITAL



The blood component is transfused to a patient in serious medical need.

Call 1.800.GIVE.LIFE or visit giveblood.givelife.org to learn more about the need for blood or to schedule your next appointment.