



# CIRCULATOR

*A quarterly publication celebrating life through blood donation*

*Winter 2016*

## Rh Disease leads to 28 transfusions for Mack

After losing one child to a rare condition, Ozark mom Tiffany LaRose is determined not to let it take a second child from her.

In 2014, her daughter Rylee Hilzer was stillborn, diagnosed with Hemolytic

Disease of the Newborn, which is a result of Rh-Incompatibility. "She was born at 24 weeks," said Tiffany, who was already mother to daughter Serenity and son Braxton.

June 10, 2015, Tiffany welcomed a son, Mack Hilzer, born 13 weeks prematurely. The baby received the same diagnosis as his late sister, along with Hypoproliferative Anemia. Tiffany's two older children did not have similar health problems due to their father's blood type being Rh-negative.



Mack was born June 10, 2015 - 13 weeks early - weighing just 2 lbs. and 12 oz.

Prior to his birth, Mack received 14 intrauterine blood transfusions performed at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, due to the procedure being unavailable in Springfield. Since his birth, at 2 lbs. and 12 oz., Mack has received 14 transfusions in Springfield, with blood from CBCO donors.

If a woman with Rh-negative blood has a child with a man whose blood is Rh-positive, and that baby also has Rh-positive blood, the mother is at risk of becoming sensitized. This can cause the mother's antibodies to attack the baby's Rh-positive blood cells, leading to serious health problems or even death for the baby. This is what Tiffany experienced with both Rylee and Mack.

Rh Incompatibility is often prevented with an immunization - Rho(D) Immune Globulin or (RhIg), also known by the brand name RhoGAM - which blocks the mother's body from developing the antibodies that may attack the baby's Rh-positive blood cells. The immunization is usually given to expectant mothers during the 28th week of pregnancy, and again within 72 hours of giving birth.

**(continued on page 2)**

### What causes Rh disease?

An Rh-negative mother and an Rh-positive father may conceive an Rh-positive baby. When this occurs, some of the fetus's Rh-positive red blood cells may get into the mother's bloodstream during pregnancy, labor and birth. Because red blood cells containing the Rh factor are foreign to the mother's system, her body tries to fight them off by producing antibodies against them. This is called sensitization.

Once a woman becomes sensitized, her Rh antibodies can cross the placenta and destroy some of the red blood cells of an Rh-positive fetus. In a first pregnancy with an Rh-positive baby, there usually are no serious problems because the baby often is born before the mother is sensitized, or at least before the mother produces many Rh antibodies. However, a sensitized woman continues to produce Rh antibodies throughout her life. This means that in a second or later pregnancy, an Rh-positive baby is at risk for more severe Rh disease.

Source: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists



## 'Let's give everyone a fighting chance at life' (continued from page 1)

While both Rylee and Mack were delivered before the 28-week landmark, the damage had already been done. Tiffany suffered a miscarriage prior to Rylee's conception. Her health care provider at that time, she said, did not administer the RhoGAM shot, stating that it wasn't necessary with an early miscarriage. This, Tiffany says, is how she became sensitized and produced the antibodies that attacked the fetus.



"Thank you is not enough. It will never be enough. Ever," is the message Tiffany LaRose wants to convey to CBCO blood donors.

Educating others about Rh disease is now a passion for Tiffany, who also needed a blood transfusion after hemorrhaging during Mack's birth. "I want to tell the story of, 'Here is this baby and he's sick, so here is how you can help this child. Even if your blood donation doesn't go directly to Mack, it will go to someone,'" she said.

In addition, she is spreading the word about how a simple immunization can help other parents and babies avoid the suffering that she and her family have gone through.

Through her Facebook page, "Blood For Mack," Tiffany brings awareness to the disease and to Mack's struggle. Her efforts have also brought donors to CBCO to help local patients, and also encouraged blood donation at centers in other states, in honor of Mack, so that other patients may receive the gift of life.

Mack's transfusions were necessary to provide him with the red blood cells that his bone marrow failed to produce. Thankfully, his body has started producing red blood cells and he has not needed a blood transfusion since October 7, 2015. Tiffany is optimistic that he will not need future transfusions.

To Mack's blood donors, Tiffany says, "I owe them my son's life. My body failed him. Something as simple as a shot not given to me caused my body to break down and break him down. If it wasn't for the donors, he wouldn't be here at all. We would not have a six-month-old happy baby in our arms. I would have a baby six feet under instead."

While Mack needed blood from CBCO's Baby Quad donors – O Negative blood which is also tested and found to be CMV Negative – Tiffany frequently encourages people with all blood types to donate.

"It's not just the O Negative blood that we need," she said. "Let's give everyone a fighting chance at life."

## Hall of Fame member donates with grandchildren

December 17, 2015, was an important day in the family of George Jones of Walnut Shade, Missouri. George made his 294th donation with CBCO and brought his two grandchildren, both of Springfield, with him. Ben Plate, age 19, took advantage of being home from college to make his 21st donation, and granddaughter Emma Plate, 16, made her debut as a first-time blood donor.

"Emma wanted to give on her 16th birthday and I had been deferred, so she couldn't do it with me until today. She's following in the footsteps of her brother and her dad," said George.

Her reason for becoming a blood donor? "I wanted to help someone else," Emma said.

Ben became a donor because of their older brother, Chris, 23, who is in need of a second kidney transplant. "Back with that first transplant, Chris was in need. He had 8 units of blood. That was when I was a freshman in high school, so that next year when I was eligible, I went for it," Ben said.

George, age 84, began donating blood at age 18 and his name is on CBCO's Wall of Fame at Thomson Donor Center. His reason for donating dates back 47 years, when his mother was diagnosed with acute leukemia.

"Her doctors asked for blood donors. They thought they were going to have to give her transfusions. She died two or three weeks after she was diagnosed. We had all sorts of people down in Taney County who volunteered to give blood," George said. "That's another reason I keep donating. Eventually, it's going to someone in the family."



George Jones donated at CBCO with his grandchildren, Ben Plate and Emma Plate.

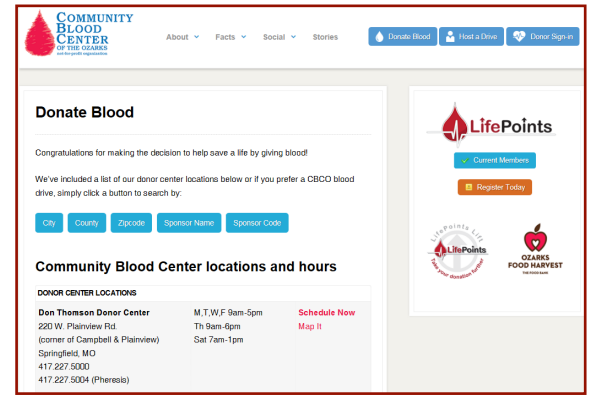
# Ready to roll up your sleeve?

Find a mobile blood drive near you or the hours of our five donor centers by visiting our website at [www.cbco.org](http://www.cbco.org) and clicking the blue "Donate Blood" button at the top of the page.

Our easy-to-use search box will let you look for blood drives by city, county, zip code, or sponsor name.

You can even schedule your appointment online!

[Click here to schedule an appointment now!](#)



## What will YOU do with your LifePoints?

LifePoints is CBCO's rewards program to thank donors each time they give. If you have not yet joined, be sure to go online within 7 days of your next donation to do so. To register or to redeem your LifePoints, visit [www.cbco.org](http://www.cbco.org) and then click "Donor Sign-In."

Donors may redeem their LifePoints for:

- \$25.00 Visa gift card – 7,000 LifePoints
- \$10.00 Amazon gift card – 4,000 LifePoints
- 1 free small concrete from Andy's Frozen Custard – 3,000 LifePoints
- \$5.00 Starbucks gift card – 3,000 LifePoints
- \$5.00 Dairy Queen gift card – 3,000 LifePoints



Or use our LifePoints Lift program to give your LifePoints to 1 of 10 participating non-profits.



## LifePoints Lift partner agency to Adopt A Drive

Ozarks Food Harvest will host a blood drive at Thomson Donor Center from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Thursday, January 28, 2016. Stop by to donate blood and find out how this non-profit agency helps feed more than 30,000 individuals each week, and learn how you can assist them with their mission across 28 Ozarks counties.

One of the easiest ways you can help is by donating your CBCO LifePoints rewards through our LifePoints Lift program. When it's time to redeem your LifePoints, instead of choosing a gift card for yourself, choose one of our 10 non-profit partner agencies.

Learn more about Ozarks Food Harvest by visiting [www.OzarksFoodHarvest.org](http://www.OzarksFoodHarvest.org). Details about LifePoints Lift are available at [www.cbco.org/lifepoints-lift](http://www.cbco.org/lifepoints-lift).



# January is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month



Observed since President Richard M. Nixon signed the first proclamation in 1969, January marks National Volunteer Blood Donor Month.

“Thank you!” to the donors who make a difference in the lives of patients at the 39 hospitals we serve in Southwest Missouri, Northwest Arkansas, and Southeast Kansas.

As a fun way to give a nod to this month having presidential approval for 47 years, here are some fun facts about presidential blood:

- The presidential limo is stocked with emergency medical equipment, including the president’s own blood type in case the motorcade’s ambulance gets cut off in an emergency. (Autoweek)
- President Ronald Reagan lost 40% of his blood volume and received 8 units of blood following a 1981 assassination attempt. He received packed red cells and three units of fresh frozen plasma. The first four units he received were O Negative, the universal blood type, which is often used in trauma situations. (New York Times)
- Legendary comedian Bob Hope was often paired with President Gerald Ford while golfing. Hope said of Ford, who was known for errant shots, “I’m comfortable playing with him as long as my caddie and I have the same blood type.” (“Presidential Trivia” by Richard Lederer)
- President George Washington died December 14, 1799, at age 67, after his caregivers performed bloodletting – a common practice back then – to help cure what they called “inflammatory quinsy” or a severe throat infection. Bloodletting was performed four times, removing 5 pints in one day – staggering considering that an adult’s body holds approximately 8 pints of blood. (New York Times)

*Our mission is to provide a quality blood supply, in a timely manner, at the lowest reasonable fee, while remaining accountable to the local community, blood donors, and health care providers.*

## Extended Hours at Springfield Donor Centers

Do you ever wish you could find extra time in your week, so you could fit giving blood into your hectic schedule? Mark your calendars because CBCO’s two Springfield donor centers have extended hours.

- Thomson Donor Center’s extended hours are every Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Reser Donor Center’s extended hours are the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Click an icon to follow us on social media!



Don’t forget! Share your donation selfie on social media using the hashtag #redcellie

## Five convenient CBCO Donor Centers near you!

**Springfield Reser Center - 2230 S. Glenstone**  
(417) 227-5025  
Monday through Friday, 7 am to 1 pm  
1st and 3rd Tuesday, 7 am - 6 pm

**Thomson Center - 220 W. Plainview**  
(417) 227-5000 or 800-280-5337  
Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm  
Thursday Extended, 9 am to 6 pm  
Saturday, 7 am to 1 pm

**Joplin - Northpark Mall  
101 N. Range Line Rd.**  
(417) 626-8323 or 866-401-5143  
Monday through Friday, 11 am to 6 pm

**Springdale - 3503 S. Thompson**  
(479) 927-1200 or 866-401-5144  
Monday through Thursday, 11 am to 6 pm  
Friday, 8 am to 2 pm

**Bentonville - 1400 SE Walton Blvd.**  
(479) 464-2506  
Monday through Thursday, 11 am to 6 pm  
Friday, 8 am to 2 pm