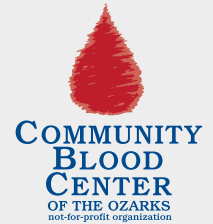




universal donor DIGEST



Celebrating the lifesaving potential of type O negative blood donors

May 2015

Select group of O Negative donors are also Baby Quad donors



When newborns require blood, not just any blood will do. A special group of donors saves the tiniest human beings, and that group begins with O Negative blood donors. Type O Negative blood is tested for the presence of Cytomegalovirus (CMV) antibodies and, if none are present, the donor is deemed "CMV-negative" and CBCO refers to these individuals as "Baby Quad" donors.

Blood from Baby Quad donors is the only type used for newborn transfusions. We collect it in a special pediatric pack that is divided into four transfusable doses, hence the name Baby Quad.

Throughout our lifetime, we're exposed to many types of viruses, including CMV. An estimated 50% - 80% of the general population has been infected with it, but most people have no idea. It's harmless for most healthy children and adults, but it can cause serious problems if transfused to an infant.

Because an infant's immune system may not be fully developed and CMV persists in infected donor white cells, CMV-negative blood is safer for these small patients to receive.

Baby Quad donors must be re-tested in case they may have been exposed to CMV infection since their last donation.

Thank you, Baby Quad donors, for your willingness to donate regularly to help these youngsters. We would love to see you every 56 days to meet the special needs of patients like Kemily, featured below.

Are you a Baby Quad donor? Come say hello and tell us what it means to you on Facebook ([click here](#)).

Kemily: A Baby Quad recipient

Kemily Wasser, born two and a half months prematurely via emergency cesarean section, needed three blood transfusions following life-saving heart surgery.

A select group of O Negative blood donors – specifically O Negative blood donors who were also CMV-negative – provided that blood.

"When your loved one is getting a blood transfusion, you don't even think about where that blood comes from," said Rebecca Wasser, Kemily's mother. "It hit me a couple years later."

Kemily spent 10 weeks in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Mercy Hospital and is now a healthy six-year-old with no signs of her fight to live.

"I've shown her the pictures before, and it kind of scares her a little bit. She says, 'That was me?' and I'll say, 'Yes, that's you. You were pretty sick. You were itty-bitty,'" Rebecca said.

Rebecca wants to make sure CBCO donors know the importance of their actions.

"I realize I almost lost my daughter," she said. "You saved our daughter's life."

See more of Kemily's story in our Spring 2015 issue of "Circulator" ([click here](#)).



It's our birthday, but you get the presents!

2015 marks CBCO's 20th anniversary, and we're giving T-shirts to donors* in June and July.

* Select blood drive sponsors have opted out of the T-shirt giveaway, choosing instead to sponsor their own gifts to donors.

More opportunities to save lives this summer – Mark your calendar now!

Friday, May 22 - Holiday Heroes launches

Give blood at one of our five donor centers during three critical holiday weeks and you'll receive a free T-shirt and bonus LifePoints. Complete all three donations, and receive an even bigger bonus – 3,000 additional LifePoints! Participate by signing up when you make your first of three donations Friday, May 22.

Friday, May 22 & Saturday, May 23 - 50% bonus LifePoints (mobiles and centers)

Monday, June 15 through Sunday, July 5 - Salute a Veteran

Donate at one of our donor centers or mobile blood drives during this event, and bring the address of a soldier or veteran that you know. We'll have cards and envelopes ready for you to write a message. The postage is on us!

Tuesday, June 9 - 8th Annual Bleed Blue Blood Drive

Springdale and Bentonville Donor Centers

- Free Naturals tickets
- Event T-shirt
- Ballpark food and more!

Monday, July 20 & Tuesday, July 21

11th Annual Bleed Red Blood Drive

Springfield – Thomson Donor Center

- Free Springfield Cardinals tickets
- Event T-shirt
- Ballpark food and more!

August 28 – 31 - 50% bonus LifePoints (mobiles and centers)



6,280 followers strong!

Are you one of them?

Come follow us on social media. It's a fun, easy way to see what's going on at CBCO, learn about upcoming events and promotions, and see the difference you can make in the lives of others. Plus we'd love to hear from you on social media with your comments, likes, shares, retweets, and hearts.

Find us as @OzarksBlood, and be sure to tag #redcellfie when you share that selfie you snapped while donating blood!