



CIRCULATOR

A quarterly publication celebrating life through blood donation

Winter 2017

Shot While Serving: Springfield Police Officer Requires 20 Units of Blood

Aaron Pearson does not remember the bullet entering just below his left eye at 1:30 a.m. January 26, 2015. Breaking his jaw. Causing him to lose his eye. Lodging in his brain. Causing a traumatic brain injury. Leaving him lying in a pool of blood on the grass where fellow officers found him. Being rushed to Mercy Hospital in Springfield, with little hope of making it through the night. He was on duty, investigating suspicious activity behind a closed north side business, one week shy of his third anniversary with the Springfield Police Department.

But his wife, Amanda, will never forget the moment the doorbell rang an hour and a half later.

As police officers explained that her husband had been injured and she phoned for someone to stay with their two children, three-year-old Jackson awoke and entered the room. "The police didn't scare him because both of his granddaddies and his daddy are officers, but I knew I couldn't cry because then he would be scared," she said.

When she got to the hospital, Amanda was taken to a room where Aaron was being prepped for surgery. "He was all bloody and covered with gauze," she said. "I told him, 'You've got to fight for your kids.' And they wheeled him away."

Aaron required 20 units of blood during surgery, all provided by CBCO donors. "I like to imagine the donors huddled around Aaron, giving him their blood,"

"I like to imagine the donors huddled around Aaron, giving him their blood. I can just imagine him lying there and 20 people circled around him, giving."

—Amanda Pearson

Amanda said. "I can just imagine him lying there and 20 people circled around him, giving. That's pretty powerful because they had no idea who he is or where it's going, but they give anyway."

He was in an induced coma for a while. "I knew if he lived, our lives were going to be different," she said.

She was told that he would have weakness on his right side, which could impair his ability to walk. She was told that he would never talk again. But as he grew stronger and tackled months of physical therapy, Aaron began reaching recovery milestones faster than expected. His excellent physical condition prior to his injury, along with his competitive nature and plenty of prayer from the community, are part of the reason for his progress, Amanda said.

Aaron, who officially retired from the police department July 28, 2015, does not see himself as a hero at all. He said, "I was shot. I don't feel like I saved anybody or did anything."

His health continues to improve, with a current challenge being processing words and getting the correct words to come out rather than words with a similar sound.

Amanda has frequently been asked, "When was your moment? When did you realize everything was going



Aaron Pearson was injured one week shy of his third anniversary on the Springfield Police Department.

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CBCO Donors Provide Blood For Springfield Police Officer



Eleven days after her husband was shot, Amanda Pearson experienced the moment she knew everything was going to be okay, as this photo was being taken.

(continued from page 1) to be okay?" That moment, she said, came 11 days after Aaron was shot. Their children were brought to the hospital to see him for the first time since he was injured.

"He was still out of it. He had spoken maybe one word. He had only been conscious for a couple of days," Amanda said of the brief visit. "We were ready to leave. We got out in the hallway and a nurse came running out, saying, 'He's asking for his daughter.'"

Amanda's first thought was, "That's not possible." She went back into his room. Aaron motioned to her, propped a pillow under his arm, and positioned his arms just right. She placed Jovi in his arms. He spoke the six-month-old's name and told her that he loved her.

That was Amanda's moment. "Maybe he's going to be a little different, but he's in there, he loves us, he recognizes his daughter. We knew that things were going in the right direction."

A photograph of that moment is very dear to the Pearsons. "This is why you donate blood," she said, fighting back tears. "They didn't have to give blood, but they did anyway. You helped save my husband – something I will be forever grateful for."

We're Now 40 Hospitals Strong!

With the start of a new year, we also began a new partnership, which gives us the right to boast that we now provide blood and blood products to 40 hospitals in 39 counties. Ozarks Medical Center in West Plains, MO, is our new addition.

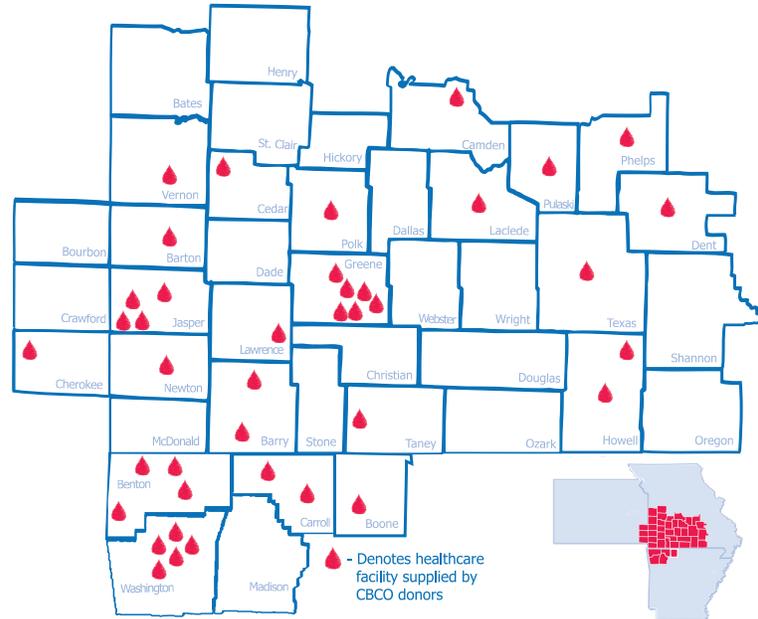
The hospital, formerly known as West Plains Memorial Hospital, was founded in 1959. It is a 114-bed acute care hospital, with more than 1,100 employees, serving an 8-county area in south central Missouri and north central Arkansas.

"We are so pleased to add Ozarks Medical Center as our 40th healthcare partner," CBCO Executive Director Anthony Roberts said. "For over 20 years, CBCO has held true to our core mission of safety, cost effectiveness, and accountability to both our hospital customers and blood donors. We think it's important to match local blood donations with sick and injured Ozarks patients. I know that Ozarks Medical Center will benefit from our partnership, and I hope that Howell County blood donors will support their local blood provider."

CBCO has held blood drives in West Plains and Howell County for years, with most of the activity taking place at the First Christian Church. Beginning in October, the location of that drive will be switched to its new permanent home inside Ozarks Medical Center at 1100 Kentucky Avenue.

To see a list of all 40 of our hospitals, click [HERE](#).

Service Area



Couple honored for volunteer work with CBCO

Ed and Sophia Griesbaum were honored with CBCO's Mary Carroll Lifetime Achievement Award at our 2016 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. The event was held Tuesday, December 6, 2016, in the Jim McLeod Room at Thomson Donor Center in Springfield.

Launched in 2006, the Mary Carroll Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes outstanding commitment to service, and is the highest honor that CBCO bestows on volunteers. Mary Carroll, who was a charter volunteer with CBCO from its inception in 1995.

The Griesbaums, who have been a part of the Springfield community for more than 65 years, have helped CBCO as both blood donors and volunteers.

Sophia, who taught grade school in Springfield for 32 years, volunteered in the canteen at Reser Donor

Center in Springfield for 16 years, and made the move to Thomson Donor Center when Reser closed in May 2016. She says she volunteers because she's at her best when she's busy, and she enjoys her interactions with

blood donors – including former students – very much. She makes it easier for donors, in her words, “to feel right at home.”

Ed has volunteered at CBCO since 1999, as a driver in our Distribution Department, but he has also given his time to a number of other interesting causes. He's been an educational surrogate, helping foster kids through school as a sort of father figure. He's volunteered with CASA, the Springfield-Greene County

Library, and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. He's also an honoree of the “Gift of Time” award from the Springfield News-Leader.



Volunteers Sophia and Ed Griesbaum with David Montgomery (center), CBCO's Senior Director of Donor Recruitment, Marketing, and IT.

Win a CBCO Mug During National Volunteer Blood Donor Month

In honor of January being National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, there are two ways for you to try to win a ceramic CBCO “Wake Up & Be Awesome! Give Blood” travel mug.

1. During the month of January, if a CBCO representative spots you out and about wearing a CBCO T-shirt, or with a CBCO window cling on your car, you'll instantly win a mug!
2. Post a photo of yourself wearing a CBCO T-shirt on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram, and tag @OzarksBlood to be entered to win one of four weekly drawings. (NOTE: Your Facebook post must be set to public in order for us to see it.)

For more information, click [HERE](#).

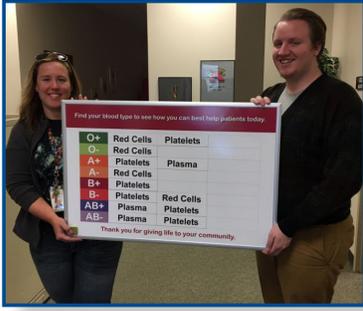
President Richard M. Nixon signed Proclamation 3952 on December 31, 1969, launching the tradition of National blood Donor Month. To see the proclamation, click [HERE](#).



**You don't follow us on social media?
Click an icon and start following
us today!**



'Should I donate whole blood, plasma, or platelets today?'



Our Blood Type Needs Display boards (BTND) are now at the two donor centers where apheresis donations are made, which are Thomson Donor Center in Springfield and our Springdale Donor Center.

Each BTND has movable magnetic pieces that will be updated each day by the charge nurse, based on inventory levels, to let donors know what our greatest needs are at that moment.

"Registration staff will convey to donors an understanding that we're encouraging them to be flexible in their donation type so they can make the biggest impact for patients," said David Montgomery, Senior Director of Donor Recruitment, Marketing, and IT. "We will always accept any donation, but think it's important to understand what patients need most."

Every Drop Tells a Story. What's Yours?

When others hear personal stories from blood recipients, it often inspires them to donate and help even more people. It's so easy to donate blood without any thought to the rest of the journey your blood will make. Hearing stories of how lives were changed due to blood donation can be an emotional experience.

CBCO's Terry Collins is one of our staff members who calls donors to remind them of their appointments or let them know we're low on their blood type. But there is one type of contact with donors that is close to her heart — calling O Negative donors to let them know their blood was just shipped to a specific hospital for a patient.

Such a short phone call often makes a big impact on donors. "People say things like, 'You mean to tell me that my blood is running through somebody else's veins **right now?**'" Some donors are moved to tears. "We get all kinds of responses, but most people really like to receive that phone call. They'll say with sincerity, 'Thank you so much for letting me know.'" Imagine your story moving others to tears, or, more importantly, motivating them to donate.

If you'd like to share your story, please send an email to slackj@cbco.org or call (417) 227-5095.

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.

URGENT NEED Blood Types O+, O-, A+, and B-

CBCO on January 19, 2017, issued a Code Red Alert for blood types O+ and O-, and also issued a Code Yellow Alert for blood types A+ and B-.

A Code Red Alert means that less than a one-day supply of blood is in reserve, and a Code Yellow Alert means that there is less than a two-day supply of blood available for patients at 40 area hospitals.

The urgent appeal was necessary due to recent winter weather. Several blood drives were forced to cancel, including schools that were not holding classes. The result was 500 fewer units of blood being donated in the first two weeks of 2017 than needed for that time period.

If you are eligible to donate, please do so. Encourage your friends and relatives to donate, as well. Potential blood donors must be at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health.

To find one of our donor centers or to locate a mobile blood drive in your area, click [HERE](#).



Four convenient CBCO Donor Centers near you!

Springfield
Thomson Center - 220 W. Plainview
(417) 227-5000 or 800-280-5337
Monday through Friday - 7 am to 7 pm
Saturday - 7 am to 1 pm
Sunday - 9 am - 3 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

