



CIRCULATOR

A quarterly publication celebrating life through blood donation

Fall 2017

CBCO Donors Help 4-Year-Old Fight Leukemia

Mia Dalton had always been a very healthy child. But when she was two years old, on a Wednesday, her parents noticed she wasn't feeling well. After a weekend of feeling lethargic, being pale, bruising easily all over her body, and running a low-grade fever, she visited her doctor. By Monday, she had been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). That day, March 7, 2016, threw the Dalton family of Kirbyville, Missouri, into a world they never dreamed they'd be part of.

Mia's body was not making any healthy blood cells. "Her blood, when she was diagnosed, was 98% leukemia blasts," said Mia's mother, Jessica Dalton. "Only 2% was healthy blood." Mia's physician was eager to get her to the emergency room in Springfield.

"Mia was so exhausted that she couldn't even lift her head," said Adam Dalton, Mia's father. "Her hemoglobin was dangerously low. By the time her blood was ordered and delivered, an ambulance had arrived to take Mia to St. Louis."

The Daltons were told to pack a suitcase and expect to be gone for a few weeks. This would be the first of many hospital stays splitting their family apart. "We made arrangements for people to take care of our house and our pets. We said goodbye to our three-month-old son for the first time, and gave our six-year-old a quick explanation of why his healthy sister was now sick. We had to miss his seventh birthday, just three days after her diagnosis," Adam said.

From Cox Hospital in Springfield, Mia was sent to St. Louis Children's Hospital, with her worried parents following in their car. While en route, she received her first whole blood transfusion. Those two units of blood came from generous CBCO donors.

Jessica and Adam arrived in St. Louis at midnight. After a long drive filled with fear and discussing an unknown future, their spirits were lifted when they saw Mia. "It was a total transformation," Adam said. "She was sitting up and playing with the nurses. She had color back in her cheeks. She was laughing. Two bags of blood made the difference for her – and for us – that night." But the healthy blood doesn't last long when her body can't produce more.

Less than 24 hours after diagnosis, Mia's chemotherapy began. "We didn't even know what kind of leukemia she had yet. It can be fatal within weeks and months," Jessica said.

After eight days in St. Louis, Mia was transferred to the St. Jude affiliate at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. "It felt like coming home," Adam said.

It may have felt like coming

home, but the next five weeks were spent in the hospital. Mia's third birthday was celebrated in isolation rather than at a party with friends and

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Mia Dalton was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at age two.



Platelets, Blood Needed During Mia's Treatment

(Continued from page 1) family. "Anyone that came into our room had to wear gloves, a mask, and a gown," Adam said. "She couldn't leave that room. Every time her immune system is weak, she has to be in isolation. It's really hard to tell a three-year-old she can't go outside."

Mia's doctors told the Daltons that ALL was the "good" cancer "because the protocol has a high survival rate, not because it's easily beaten," Adam said.

Mia was in remission after 30 days of treatment. "You go from having cancer to 30 days later, your kid doesn't have cancer anymore.

All of the side effects and scariness are because of the chemo," Jessica said.

Along with worrying about the threat of relapse, there is the fear that your child will not survive the treatment, Adam said.

Several challenges have erupted along Mia's journey. She has been hospitalized at least seven times for colds on top of five planned hospital stays. She has undergone 13 spinal taps within seven months. Last March, Mia was airlifted to St. Louis and placed in intensive care due to liver failure caused by chemotherapy. "The majority of blood products that she used happened then," Jessica said. "She was having two platelet transfusions per day."

Last Halloween, Mia's platelets fell to a 3 while her normal number is 300. "If it's below a 20, the patient needs more," Adam said. Mia had a fever and bruises all over her body. "After three platelet transfusions, her platelets were at a 2. She actually went down through this phase. After three transfusions, her body was burning through them so quickly that they weren't even giving her a chance to heal. After six days in the hospital, four platelet transfusions, and three blood transfusions, Mia's bruises finally began to heal."

"Those donors saved her life so many times during that hospital stay," Jessica said.

Prior to Mia's illness, Jessica didn't realize children going through cancer treatments need so much blood. "Before this, I just imagined people who had lost blood in a car accident or something needed blood. I guess I didn't realize that chemo was so detrimental to the production of blood. We go into clinic and almost every single time we're there, at least one of those kids is receiving blood."

Mia is now four years old and in the maintenance

phase of her treatment. Her transfusions total more than 50 units of whole blood and platelets. She goes to the hospital every two weeks now for testing. Each night before bed, she takes oral chemo, and she takes steroids. Her parents say she is doing better now than since before her diagnosis. She attends pre-school and dance classes. "She can run. That's one thing that surprises me after seeing her in bed, pale, and covered in bruises so often in the last year and a half. She's running. She'll fall, but she's not scared of it anymore. She's trying to do cartwheels. She's so strong and she looks like such a normal kid," Jessica said.

Mia's progress is documented on her Facebook page, Mighty Mia's Big Adventure, which you may reach by clicking [HERE](#).

The Daltons' story is not an easy one for them to tell. "Everyone needs to know what these kids go through, but most important is a 'Thank you' to you folks, the donors," Adam said.

Blood and platelet donors have played a vital role in Mia's story. "When her bone marrow was not producing any cells at all, she lived off of their donations. There's so many times that, had that blood not been available, she wouldn't be with us today," Jessica said.

Mia's maintenance treatment is scheduled to end in July 2018. Once a cancer patient reaches the five-year mark following the completion of treatment, they are considered to be cured. The Dalton family is cautiously optimistic as they look to the future. "In five years, she will be considered cured, and it's all because of you," Adam said. "Thank you for giving."

"There's so many times that, had that blood not been available, she wouldn't be with us today."

—Jessica Dalton



Jessica and Adam Dalton with their children (from left) Jameson, Mia, and Eli.

Promotions & Events

Holiday Hugs - First Donation

Monday, Nov. 20 – Monday, Nov. 27, 2017

Apheresis only. Sign up to make 3 donations within specific dates.

LifePoints bonus at the end if all 3 donations are completed. Only at Thomson Center in Springfield and Springdale Center.



Holiday Hero – Round 3

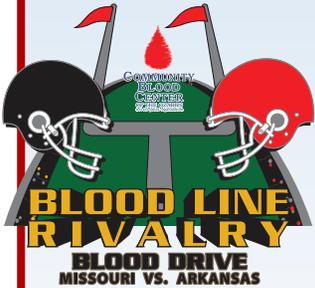
Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017

Commit to 3 donations during specific dates. Complete all 3 and get 3,000 bonus LifePoints. Donor centers only.

Blood Line Rivalry Blood Drive

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017

Donor centers only. Participants receive free T-shirt. Donors “vote” for favorite team: Missouri vs. Arkansas.



Miracle of Giving Blood Drive

Dec. 11-31, 2017

All mobile blood drives and donor centers. Participants receive free T-shirt.

Holiday Hugs - Second Donation

Monday, Dec. 18 – Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017

Apheresis only. Second of 3 donations within specific dates and receive a Miracle of Giving T-shirt. LifePoints bonus upon completion of all 3 donations. Only at Thomson Center in Springfield and Springdale Center.



Rotary Days

Monday, Dec. 18 – Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017

Springfield Rotary club chapters compete for the most donors. Thomson Center in Springfield.

Movie Mania Blood Drive

Friday, Dec. 22 and 29, 2017

Participants receive one Fandango movie ticket and a free Miracle of Giving T-shirt. Donor centers only.



Holiday Hero – Round 3

Friday, Dec. 22, 2017

Commit to 3 donations during specific dates. Complete all 3 and get 3,000 bonus LifePoints. Donor centers only.

Holiday Hugs - Third Donation

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017 – Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018

Apheresis only. LifePoints bonus upon completion of all 3 donations. Only at Thomson Center in Springfield and Springdale Center.



Holiday Hero – Round 3

Friday, Dec. 29, 2017

Commit to 3 donations during specific dates. Complete all 3 and get 3,000 bonus LifePoints. Donor centers only.

What are we up to at CBCO?

One of the best ways to find out what's going on at CBCO is to follow us on social media. You'll find us by searching for @ozarksblood on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube. We'll keep you in-the-know on upcoming promotions, special events, and blood drives, and we'll share inspirational stories of lives touched by CBCO donors. Post a selfie while you're donating blood with our hashtag #redcellfie, or share our posts. Tag us by adding @ozarksblood to your post or tweet. Here are a few mentions that we were excited to find online.



Blood Emergencies Recently in the News

The unthinkable happens followed by a breaking story in the news media. The community reacts by lining up around the block to give blood. Or an urgent call may go out from a blood center asking donors to come in. We've seen this happen many times, both on a national level and locally. Unfortunately, it happened again recently and CBCO donors were there to help those in need on an even bigger scale than they do every day.

Hurricane Harvey

Hurricane Harvey formed in August and hit Texas. The subsequent flooding in the hardest hit areas resulted in widespread blood drive cancellations and affected their ability to process blood for local hospitals to use. Officials issued an appeal to other blood centers, requesting more than 2,500 units of blood and emphasizing type O due to its universal application in emergency response.



"This is an unprecedented storm impacting a huge geographic area," CBCO Executive Director Anthony Roberts said at that time. "Transportation of badly needed blood products into Houston and Corpus Christi has been severely hampered. It is likely that the need will continue through the week, and I'm confident Ozarks area donors will roll up their sleeves to help. We're asking our local donors to give now to help us assist with the ongoing emergency response."

CBCO shipped 50 units of blood the morning of August 28 through emergency depots located in Dallas and Austin. In fact, more than 30 blood centers from across the country shipped more than 2,500 blood products into the area before the immediate threat to the blood supply had passed and local blood centers reopened their doors.

Hurricane Irma

Also formed in August, Hurricane Irma affected Florida and the east coast.

Lee Memorial Blood Center in Fort Myers, FL, requested blood from other blood centers through the National Blood Exchange to increase their inventory ahead of the hurricane. CBCO sent 50 units to Lee Memorial September 5, followed by 50 units later in the week to OneBlood, an independent supplier of blood to many hospitals in Florida.

"I'm tremendously pleased that the Ozarks was in a position to help those affected by Hurricane Irma," CBCO Executive Director Anthony Roberts said. "We had an increase in donations locally after we were able to help southeast Texas in response to Hurricane Harvey. It's another great example of how donations already on the shelves were used for an immediate disaster response. We're asking donors again to help us to build back our own reserves so that lives can continue to be saved both locally and elsewhere in times of crisis."

Las Vegas Shooting



When a gunman shot into an outdoor concert audience from the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas October 1, the lines of donors quickly began forming in the wee hours of the morning, waiting for local blood centers to open.

While CBCO was not called upon to provide blood in the Las Vegas area, each of these stories has a common denominator. Members of the community and other blood centers came together to help, just as we received assistance following the Joplin tornado in May 2011 and just as we hope others will do for us if we need help in the future.

In each of these situations, the blood and plasma that was used first was already available on the shelves, thanks to dedicated donors who give even without a news-breaking event taking place. Our best defense truly is a good offense when it comes to managing the blood supply in times of crisis. When you donate blood on a regular basis, you help ensure that an adequate supply is always available.

LifePoints Rewards Both Donors and Non-profits

Are you taking advantage of CBCO's LifePoints rewards? All you need to do is go online to register for LifePoints within seven days of donating blood, and then each donation (and attempted donation) will result in LifePoints being deposited automatically within 7 days of future donations. To register, visit our donor portal by clicking [HERE](#).

LifePoints may be redeemed online for gift cards to these great merchants:

- Visa gift card – 7,000 LifePoints
- Amazon gift card – 4,000 LifePoints
- One free small concrete from Andy's Frozen Custard – 3,000 LifePoints
- Starbucks gift card – 3,000 LifePoints
- Dairy Queen gift card – 3,000 LifePoints



Feeling extra generous? Instead of redeeming your LifePoints for a gift card, give them to one of 10 great non-profits through our LifePoints Lift program. For more details, click [HERE](#).

CBCO donors continue to support these charities, with our fiscal year-to-date LifePoints donated totaling more than 3.1 million points. This month, we will award bonuses to our LifePoints Lift non-profit partner agencies, with the first-place non-profit receiving a check for \$2,000, second place \$1,000, and third place \$500. Donors may give all of their LifePoints to one non-profit or divide the points to assist more than one non-profit. It's up to them. We don't require donors to stick with one non-profit.

Great job, donors!

Thank you!



2017 High School Leadership Workshops

Nearly 500 students from 55 high schools attended CBCO's 2017 High School Leadership Workshops. Six half-day events were held over two weeks in September across the region. Students learned why donating blood is vital to their community, and they learned skills to help make their blood drives successful. Some of our training will help them

throughout their academic careers and even when they join the workforce including marketing, persuasive speaking, time management, event planning, goal-setting, and more. Invitations will go out to all of our high school blood drive coordinators at the end of the school year, so don't forget to add us to your schedule. Our Facebook photo album from our 2017 workshops is available by clicking [HERE](#). Be sure to tag yourself! Wondering if your school should attend? Click on the photo of Chloe from Neosho High School (left) to see a quick video about out why you should be part of next year's workshops.



Second Annual Universal Donor Banquet Held

Bass Pro Shops' White River Room in Springfield was the scene of our second annual U-Donor Banquet, held Friday, October 6, 2017. While we would love to be able to invite all of our donors to dinner, space and finances prevent us from doing so. In order to be invited to this event, you must have been:

- An O Negative donor who made four or more donations between July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.
- An AB Plasma donor who made at least six apheresis plasma donations between July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

This was the first year that AB Plasma donors were included. Our guest speaker was Adam Dalton, father of blood and platelet recipient Mia Dalton. You'll find Mia's story on the front page of this newsletter. The Daltons expressed their thanks to the many donors who have helped save Mia's life during her illness. View our Facebook photo album of the event (and tag yourself) by clicking [HERE](#).

The next event will be held Friday, October 5, 2018. There is plenty of time to make sure you receive an invitation for yourself and a guest. You must be:

- An O Negative donor who makes four or more donations between July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.
- An AB Plasma donor who makes at least six apheresis plasma donations between July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

Our Universal Donors aren't the only CBCO donors who receive special recognition throughout the year. Donors who reach the 20-gallon level are inducted into CBCO's Hall of Fame each spring and all Hall of Fame members are invited to our annual Celebration of Life Banquet. Other recognition for CBCO donors includes pins to mark gallon milestones, LifePoints rewards, and various promotional items including T-shirts. CBCO volunteers are recognized at a banquet held each December, as well.

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.



Holiday Hours

Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017
All operations closed.

Friday, Nov. 24, 2017
All operations closed except Thomson Center in Springfield apheresis appointments.

Friday, Dec. 22, 2017
Thomson Center in Springfield, Bentonville, and Springdale
7:00 am – 3:00 pm
Joplin 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Saturday, Dec. 23 & Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017
Thomson Center in Springfield
7:00 am – 1:00 pm

Monday, Dec. 25, 2017
All operations closed.

Friday, Dec. 29, 2017
Thomson Center in Springfield, Bentonville, and Springdale
7:00 am – 3:00 pm
Joplin 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017
Thomson Center in Springfield
7:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017
Thomson Center in Springfield
7:00 am – 1:00 pm

Monday, Jan. 1, 2018
All operations closed.

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

