

Blood is living tissue that cleans and nourishes the human body. It is a fragile substance that cannot be manufactured and can only be stored for a very limited time.

Donating blood is a safe, simple procedure that saves lives. In Iowa, only about four percent of eligible donors actually donate blood. It is impossible to get any infection or infectious disease by donating blood.

## Joe D'Souza

"I know someone, somewhere is being helped," says Joe D'Souza, of his commitment to blood donation. Joe understands the importance of having blood readily available for someone in need. He began his donation career as a young adult after he joined the Army where he witnessed the need for blood on a regular basis during the war.



DONOR

"I learned early on that you shouldn't wait if you have the ability to help save a life with something as simple as a blood donation. I may not know the people I've helped, but I know how important blood donation is. I feel good knowing that I can help."



800.287.4903  
www.bloodcenterofiowa.org



# For Blood Donors and Recipients

## Chandra & Addison Eckels

After months of anxious preparation, Chandra eagerly awaited the impending arrival of her new baby. Following what seemed to be a normal birth process, Chandra developed complications from a medication that caused excessive post-delivery bleeding. A significant loss of blood and an alarmingly low hemoglobin count required Chandra to receive two units of blood.



RECIPIENT

"I wouldn't have been able to care for my baby girl were it not for the blood I received. I now know how important blood donation is and I am so thankful, for me and Addison, that someone took time out of their life to donate."



It's Achievement.  
It's Service.  
It's Community.

**It's being a Blood Donor.**



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## Is the blood supply safe?

Absolutely! The Blood Center of Iowa focuses heavily on the safety and quality of the community blood supply. The following procedures assure the safety of the blood supply:

- **Healthy, honest and responsible volunteer donors**

The Blood Center of Iowa accepts only voluntary blood donations. It has been proven that blood, voluntarily donated, is much safer than a paid blood donation.

- **Direct and comprehensive screening of donors by health professionals**

A mini-physical is conducted on donors before they donate. This includes a screening of the donor's temperature, pulse, hemoglobin and blood pressure. A series of health and lifestyle related questions are also asked, including questions asking if they have any signs or symptoms of AIDS and if they consider themselves to be at risk for the AIDS virus.

- **Thorough laboratory testing**

All blood undergoes testing in The Blood Center of Iowa's state-of-the-art laboratory to make sure it is safe to transfuse to a hospital patient. In fact, more than one million separate tests are performed each year on the blood collected. Blood samples, drawn in separate tubes at the time of each donation, are subjected to the following tests: ABO grouping; Rh blood typing; syphilis; screening for irregular antibodies; tests for hepatitis B & C; tests for HIV; HTLV testing; West Nile Virus testing and Chagas diseases testing. Results of all testing are always kept confidential.



## If I should ever need blood where will it come from?

The Blood Center of Iowa relies upon generous, committed blood donors throughout Iowa to maintain the blood supply. The majority of the blood collected comes from mobile blood drives sponsored by churches, businesses, schools, communities and social organizations throughout the state. The remainder of the blood is collected at one of The Blood Center's seven donor centers located in major cities throughout the state. Visit [www.bloodcenterofiowa.org](http://www.bloodcenterofiowa.org) for a complete list of mobile blood drives or donor center locations.

## How is the blood used?

Donated blood saves lives! In fact, each donation can help save the lives of up to three different hospital patients in need. In our community alone, more than 100,000 units of blood are needed each year for cancer, surgery, trauma, childbirth and other disease treatments.

## Will I need to replace or pay for the blood I use?

If you need a blood transfusion the blood will be available to you without a replacement fee thanks to generous volunteer blood donors throughout the state. While there is **never** a fee for the blood itself, your hospital bill will include a processing fee for each transfusion. The processing fee covers the recruitment, collection, testing and distribution costs associated with each unit of blood.

Processing fees are almost always covered by hospitalization insurance.

## Aids and the blood supply

Over twenty years ago, The Blood Center of Iowa implemented specific tests to screen the blood supply for the antibody to the HIV virus (the virus that causes AIDS). This test further reduced the already small chance of getting AIDS from a blood transfusion. In the past ten years, major advancements in medical technology have enhanced the testing capabilities for HIV and The Blood Center now performs the most updated, current HIV testing available on all blood collected.

## Where can I get more information about AIDS or HIV testing?

If you suspect you may be in a high-risk group for AIDS, contact your physician or the National AIDS Hotline at (800) 232-4636 for confidential HIV testing information. Please do not give blood for the purpose of getting an AIDS test.

**For information about blood donations and blood safety, please call The Blood Center of Iowa at 800-287-4903.**



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