

# How Your Donation Makes a Difference



**American Red Cross**

## YOUR BLOOD IS NEEDED MORE THAN YOU THINK

- Every two seconds someone in America needs blood.
- More than 38,000 pints of blood are needed in the U.S. every day.
- Only 38 percent of the population is eligible to donate and just a fraction of those eligible—about 8 percent—actually donate blood.
- The need for blood is constant and the blood supply must be regularly replenished. That is why it is so important that generous donors like you give regularly.

## One grateful family makes a big difference



*Peggy Lin (R) is joined by her father, Bill, sitting center, and brother-in-law, Felix (L).*

In an effort to thank the Red Cross for having blood available for her mother, Peggy Lin organized a group of friends and family to donate blood. Lin's mother, Katy Gray, is undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer and has received regular blood transfusions to help boost her red cell production.

"We all love Katy," said one longtime acquaintance. "And this is something we can do to support her. Giving blood is an easy thing to do."

Lin's father, Bill Gray, also donated. Gray said he'd not donated for a couple years, but enjoyed returning to give blood for his wife. At one point, every bed in the donation center was filled with someone giving blood in Katy's honor.

## TAKE ACTION AND GET INVOLVED

- **Be a regular blood donor!** You can donate whole blood every 56 days, up to 6 times per year; platelets up to 24 times per year; plasma every 28 days, up to 13 times per year; and double red cells every 112 days, up to three times per year.
- **Volunteer!** Every day generous people support the blood program by volunteering their time.
- **Spread the word!** Tell your friends and family about the difference they can make by donating blood.
- **Visit [givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org)!** Go to our website for the most up-to-date tools and information to become a Red Cross advocate today.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO MY BLOOD AFTER I DONATE?

### 1. AT THE BLOOD DRIVE OR DONATION CENTER



You share the gift of life through blood donation.

### 2. AT THE LABORATORY



The blood is separated into 3 components—red cells, platelets and plasma.

### 3. AT THE LABORATORY



Samples of blood components are sent for testing to ensure they're safe for patients.

### 4. AT THE RED CROSS



The blood components are sent to the hospitals as needed.

### 5. AT THE HOSPITAL



Doctors determine when a patient needs a transfusion and which component they need.

### 6. AT THE HOSPITAL



The blood component is transfused to a patient in serious medical need.