



Blood Bank of Hawaii

2043 Dillingham Boulevard
Honolulu, HI 96819-4024
PHONE: (808) 845-9966
NEIGHBOR ISLANDS: (800) 372-9966

Dillingham Donor Center

Monday.....9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday.....6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday.....9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday.....6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday.....6:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday.....First Sunday of the month
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Downtown Donor Center

Monday-Friday.....6:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

You can visit us on the Internet to make a donation appointment, find a blood drive near you, or learn more about the Blood Bank of Hawaii. Our web site is located at:

www.bbh.org

You can follow us on Twitter at:

twitter.com/hawaiibloodbank

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Ala Moana Lions Club Makes the Calls

Making a difference in the lives of others, the Ala Moana Lions Club is one of four community groups that support the Blood Bank by making recruitment or appointment reminder phone calls.

“Many of our 40 members are blood donors, including myself, so we are enthusiastic about supporting the Blood Bank of Hawaii,” said Tracey Saiki, who has been a member of the Ala Moana Lions Club for about a year.

“The Lions are ‘Dedicated to the Service of Others,’ so we believe that our support for the Blood Bank helps save people’s lives,” she said.

Possessing CMV-negative blood, she is a frequent donor because “my blood is the type needed by premature babies,” she said. “When a nurse told me that my blood would help save babies, I saw it as my opportunity to give life to children.”

A lieutenant colonel and public affairs officer in the U.S. Air Force

Reserve, she also works as a planning specialist for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The Ala Moana Lions Club will be at the Dillingham Donor Center from 5 to 8 p.m., October 7, to call and schedule Kauai donors for the Garden Island’s October 12-14 blood drives.

“The Ala Moana Lions are terrific supporters and I want to thank Wayne Karimoto, their treasurer, for spearheading their efforts,” said Winnie Mokiao, the Blood Bank’s volunteer/employee relations coordinator.

“We also appreciate the other groups that volunteer to make phone calls: the Pearl Harbor Kiwanis Club, Kalihi Business Association, and Farrington High School’s Health Occupations Students of America.”

She added, “We always can use more help.” If your group can help, please contact her at 848-4734 or wmokiao@bbh.org.



News from your Community Blood Center

October 2009

Turning Adversity into Advocacy

After battling a rare, auto-immune condition, blood recipient Bill Shanks is on a mission for the Blood Bank of Hawaii

The health crisis that threatened Bill Shanks’ life came on suddenly in the summer of 2006.

“I experienced symptoms of severe fatigue that I thought were just a lingering virus,” said Bill, who visited his doctor after his health didn’t improve. “My doctor later phoned me at home and told me to sit down.”

Test results showed Bill’s blood lines were severely depressed and at life-threatening levels. Bill received his first blood transfusion the next day and immediately felt better. “It was as though I’d been to the spa,” he remembered with a chuckle. “I hadn’t felt that energized in a long time.”

But his test results weren’t as promising. Additional blood work and a bone marrow biopsy produced more startling results—his bone marrow was almost “empty,” with less than 10 percent of the normal amount of blood-forming stem cells. For four months, Bill required two units of red blood cells every two weeks and one unit of platelets every week.

Further tests revealed Bill suffered from aplastic anemia, a rare auto-immune condition where bone marrow does not produce sufficient number of blood cells. He received immunosuppression treatments which “wiped out my immune system in an attempt to ‘reset’ it.”



The treatment was initially successful. However, in June 2007, Bill’s blood counts began to decline again. Transfusions resumed, as did the immunosuppressive drug treatments, which he received in Honolulu and at a major medical center in California the following summer.

This time it worked.

“I am happy to say that I have not needed a red blood transfusion since July 2008!” he exclaimed. “I am still on the cyclosporine, and will be until my counts are fully normal. So far, so good.”

Through this challenging experience, Bill has had only one regret—that he has never been a blood donor.

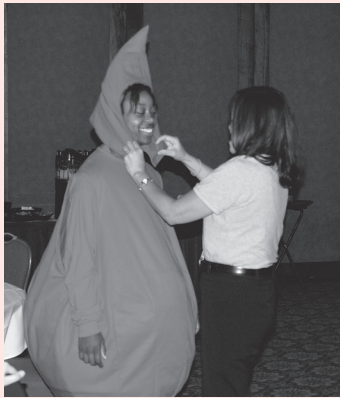
“I was scared of needles; I was a wimp,” he said wistfully. “I wish I could donate blood now, but I can’t.”

But he has found other ways to give back, most recently as a patient speaker for the Blood Bank of Hawaii and a loyal recruiter for the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center blood drives.

“It’s the least I can do,” Bill said. “When I was a patient and lay in my hospital bed watching the blood drip into my body, I realized that I was being kept alive by

(Continued inside)

Bill Shanks



BBH Field Representative Ferna Yamamoto adjusts BBH's blood drop costume for Radford High's Shaniqua Vick-Ray.



Anna Gerbozy, Radford High, makes a stop at the BBH blood drive resources table.



At the mock blood drive, BBH Nursing Services Director Doreen Matsuda points out collection equipment and supplies to (from left) Rachel Roley, Mid-Pacific Institute, and Jessie Kaleikini, Kaimuki High.

High School Workshop Signals Return Of School Blood Drives

Educating the next generation about the need for blood and imparting a life-long tradition of giving are crucial to maintaining an adequate community blood supply.

That’s the purpose behind the Blood Bank’s High School Workshop, held September 3 for faculty advisors and student coordinators from public and private high schools. Nearly 5,000 units of blood came from high school blood drives during the 2008-09 school year.

Hosted by radio personality Billy V, the workshop included a presentation on the mission, facilities and operations of the Blood Bank of Hawaii; another presentation on the scientific and medical aspects of blood and blood processing; presentations of a practice blood drive; and sessions on recruitment, publicity and education.

The workshop also introduced the Blood Bank’s Honor Cord Program, which will honor high school seniors who made significant contributions through their lifesaving blood donations and service in support of their school’s blood drives. The Blood Bank will award qualifying seniors with a red honor cord to wear at their graduation or senior awards assembly.

“Many of our donors’ first experience occurs in high school,” said Dr. Robyn Yim, the Blood Bank’s president and medical director. “The students are very caring and proud of their ability to help others. Their participation is important to the community blood supply and we truly appreciate their support.”

Making Spirits Bright For Holiday Donors
With the holidays just around the corner, the Blood Bank of Hawaii wants to ensure it maintains a safe and adequate blood supply during this busy time of year.
Oahu and Maui donors giving the gift of life from December 24, 2009 through January 2, 2010, will receive a coupon for a tasty treat during the Blood Bank’s “Making Spirits Bright” holiday campaign.
Oahu donors can redeem their coupon for a package of The Cookie Corner’s popular tropical fruit bars, in either lilikoi, key lime or lemon flavors.
Maui donors also will receive a coupon for a tasty treat (to be determined) during their scheduled drive on December 24.

Bill Shanks: Turning Adversity into Advocacy

(Continued from front page)
people I didn’t know, but who cared enough to give of themselves so other people, like me, could live while they received treatment.
“I received over 30 units of red blood cells and 30 units of platelets over the last three years,” he recalled.
“Without the selfless giving of all of those donors, I would not be here right now, my wife would be a widow and my 14-year-old son would be without a father. I am truly grateful to them all.”

Molokai Donor on a Mission to Save Lives
Gene Anderson flies to Honolulu to donate blood

On September 2, Gene Anderson dropped by the Dillingham Donor Center to donate his 50th pint of blood, but there’s more to his story than a number.

At every opportunity for the past eight years, Gene has left his home on Molokai and flown to Honolulu to give the gift of life.

Gene started donating when his wife had cancer and was informed that she might need blood. The cancer is gone and she is a survivor.

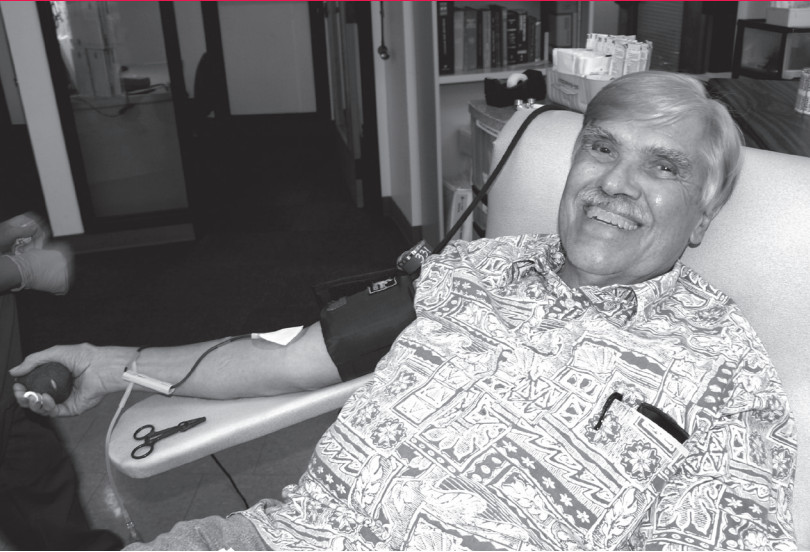
“Once I started giving blood, it became a habit and now I try to give every eight weeks,” said the retired biology teacher, originally from California.

“I look forward to flying to Honolulu and stopping off at the Blood Bank’s Dillingham Donor Center near the airport. Afterward, we go downtown and eat dim sum!”

An inspiring moment came during one visit, when Gene met a woman who was volunteering in the Blood Bank’s canteen. She said she experienced a difficult childbirth delivery and needed 19 pints of blood. She was grateful and wanted to meet some of the people who helped save her life.

“I realized that the blood we donate helps people—people we don’t know and will never meet,” he said.

Gene is an enthusiastic supporter of Molokai’s blood drive, which this year was held on August 3. Supporters of this year’s drive



After flying in from Molokai, Gene Anderson donates his 50th pint of blood at the Dillingham Donor Center.

included the Molokai Lions Club, Friendly Market, Kamo’i Snack-n-Go, Molokai Drug, Molokai General Hospital, Monsanto Hawaii, Grace Episcopal Church, Heart of Aloha, Molokai Baptist Church, Jerusalema Hou (Halawa Church), Ka Hale La’a O Jerusalema Hou, and the police and fire departments.

“The good people of Molokai are very special,” Gene said. “They welcomed us Molokai style when my wife and I moved here after I retired in 1995. They are very generous and live aloha; they share fruit, fish, and music. Giving blood is natural for this community.”

BBH At-A-Glance

- Book a Pre-appointment
Your time is precious, and we strive to serve you as efficiently as possible. Upon your next donation, please sign up for another appointment before you leave. It will ensure your choice of appointment time, and you will receive just one reminder call.
Consider a Commuter Blood Drive
Commuters, take a break during your “pau hana” drive home to give blood: Kailua’s Farmers Market, 4 to 7 p.m., November 12; Hawaii Kai Towne Center, 3 to 7 p.m., November 16 and December 29; Waikale Center, 3:15 to 7 p.m., December 8. To help us serve you better, please call 845-9966 for an appointment.
Share Your Story; It Could Save a Life
Often, by telling their story, blood recipients can have a positive impact on donor education and turnout at blood drives, helping to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply. If you, or someone you know, received blood products and are willing to share your story, please conact Blood Bank Communications Director Laurie Chang (email: lchang@bbh.org) or Communications Assistant Randy Kusaka (rkusaka@bbh.org).

Coordinator’s Corner

Plan Your 2010 Blood Drives Now!

With only three months left in 2009, Lifesaver Clubs coordinators are already planning for the New Year. Here are a few reasons why:

- To ensure they achieve their annual Lifesaver Club goal.
To help secure the blood drive dates that are best for their Lifesaver Club and to reserve internal resources, i.e., a conference room.
To provide ample time to educate, promote and recruit for each drive.
To provide donors a chance to secure their donation dates for the year.
To ensure our community has a safe and adequate blood supply EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR in 2010!