



**Blood Bank of Hawaii**

Give Blood. It's Safe. It's Simple. It Saves Lives.

2043 Dillingham Boulevard  
Honolulu, HI 96819-4024  
Phone: (808) 845-9966  
Neighbor Islands: (800) 372-9966

**Dillingham Donor Center**

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Sunday Apheresis only

Apheresis by appointment daily.

**Young Street Donor Center**

Tuesday 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday - Saturday 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

[www.BBH.org](http://www.BBH.org)

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Blood Bank of Hawaii

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## Blood Bank of Hawaii

*Give Blood.*

*It's Safe.*

*It's Simple.*

*It Saves Lives!*

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### Through the Donors' Eyes

#### Hawaii's Community Embraces the new Young Street Donor Center

Mark Marezki eyes the roomful of donors as he makes his way to the waiting area. It's a mixed crowd today at Young Street Donor Center — a first-time donor engaged in an interview, a century donor and his son donating together, a passersby inquiring about an appointment. Mark, a donor since 1995, likes what he sees. What lies before him is not institutional, but welcoming and bright.

"The opportunity to see donors in the history rooms, on the donor floor and in the waiting area at the same time is great," said Mark, an English teacher at Punahou School. **"When I got here, I felt a sense of 'togetherness,' of good community spirit."**

Constructed around floor-to-ceiling windows that allow natural light to stream indoors, transparent walls of glass between the history room and donor floor, and a modern architectural design that includes a curved soffit, mirrored wall and a floor pattern that resembles a blood drop, the new donor room has caught the eyes and approvals of its visitors.

**"It's awesome—open, airy, and fresh,"** said Ryan Miyashiro, 33. "The outdoor light really brings a warm, welcoming feeling."

"Spectacular," adds Sophia Rivera. "It's contemporary and spacious. I also love that it's very close to where I live. I drop off my kids at school, eat breakfast and just walk to the donor center."

Opened on April 10, Young Street Donor Center signals a milestone in disaster preparedness for the State of Hawaii. It also offers a convenient donor location for those working and living in the Makiki, Moiliili and university areas, and travelling to and from East Oahu.

"I live in Kaimuki, so it's much more convenient for my son and me to donate at Young Street," said century donor Greg Miyashiro, who has given at Dillingham Donor Center for many years. "The McCully area location, easy on- and off- access to the freeway, and parking is great."

Former Downtown Donor Center lifesaver Gil Doles is quick to agree. "When Young Street opened, I made an appointment to see what it was like," said the busy attorney who lives and works in town. "The location, parking and atmosphere are



Donor Mark Marezki is wowed by his first visit to the new Young Street Donor Center.

hard to beat. I've found it more convenient to donate there than downtown."

Blood Bank of Hawaii's flagship Dillingham Donor Center remains, however, a key location for Dean Toda. "As a salesman, I am on the road a lot," he said. "It's a good thing Blood Bank of Hawaii is so flexible, as my schedule can vary from day to day. Having access to two locations makes it easy—Young Street Donor Center is ideal when I'm heading to East Oahu, and Dillingham Donor Center when I'm driving west."

Check out the new Young Street Donor Center and let us know what you think!

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Donations are down more than 10 percent across the country resulting in 50,000 fewer pints of blood than expected.** Across the nation blood centers have gone on appeal to reach out to first-time and loyal donors to help meet the need for blood.

Hawaii is no different. Summertime traditionally has low donor turnout and is following the mainland trend.

### What can you do to help?

Take an hour out of your busy summer and come to any Blood Bank of Hawaii donor center or blood drive. Better yet, bring a friend or encourage a co-worker or family to do the same. Together we can help save lives.

Only one hour of your time this summer can save up to three lives and touch many more!



# BBH AT-A-GLANCE



## The Need For Blood Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation

Summer's here, and that means sun and fun! It can also translate to a drop in blood donations. With schools out and families on vacation, regular donors often wait until fall to donate again.

The need for blood, however, never takes a vacation. BBH staff works hard to collect close to 200 pints of blood daily to meet the needs of Hawaii's patients.

**With a little creativity, we can all help keep our community blood supply strong this summer. Here are some ideas:**

- Connect with your family and friends, then pick a date to donate together.
- While doing something special for yourself, take one hour of your day this summer to do something equally special for someone else by donating blood.
- Donate on a holiday and receive a treat for your good deed! (See promotion below.)



## How Sweet It Is

To show our thanks for our donors' commitment to saving lives, BBH is again partnering with Baskin-Robbins to give those who donate a pint of blood or platelets on the following holidays a special **"Give-a-Pint, Get-a-Pint"** coupon redeemable at participating Baskin-Robbins ice cream stores:

- Statehood Day August 17
- Labor Day September 3

## It's easy to make an appointment:

Visit [www.BBH.org](http://www.BBH.org) or call 848-4770 on Oahu, or 1-800-372-9966 on the Neighbor Islands.

## Calling All Storytellers

Have you, or someone you know used blood? If so, we would love to hear from you. You just never know what your story will mean to someone else. Please contact Director of Communications Laurie Chang at [lchang@bbh.org](mailto:lchang@bbh.org) or 848-4711.

For more information visit [www.BBH.org](http://www.BBH.org)

Follow us on Twitter at

[Twitter.com/hawaiibloodbank](https://twitter.com/hawaiibloodbank)

## World Blood Donor Day Puts Spotlight on "Pied Piper of Platelets"



The Hawaii News Now news team was one of three stations who covered "Platelets Across America" founder Al Whitney's visit to Hawaii for World Blood Donor Day in June. Nurse Emi Yamane prepares Whitney for his 706th platelet donation at Dillingham Donor Center.

When Al Whitney made his platelet donation at Dillingham Donor Center on World Blood Donor Day, June 14, he checked off another state from his list.

Since 2007, the 75-year-old retired factory worker from Ohio has made it his mission to donate platelets and heighten awareness about the importance of blood donations in all 50 states as part of his ambitious **"Platelets Across America"** tour. His visit to Hawaii marked the 48th stop and 706th unit of platelets given during his nationwide quest.

"I wanted to make this my 50th state—to make this my Hawaii five-0—but it didn't work out. I'm Hawaii 4-8," he says with a laugh.

But the "Pied Piper of Platelets," as he is fondly known, was not concerned as much about timing as about raising awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products. World Blood Donor Day, a day set aside to do just that and thank voluntary unpaid blood donors for their lifesaving gifts, provided him the perfect opportunity to share his mission.

**"I cannot do brain surgery. I can't do open heart surgery, but I can collect blood and inspire people to donate blood and platelets,"** added Whitney, who donated his first pint of blood in 1965 and served as a blood drive coordinator for 30 years. "It's all about education and awareness. It's a little thing that I can do to give someone another birthday. A father to walk his daughter down the aisle. A mother a chance to see her son graduate from college. Without voluntary blood donors, that's not going to happen."



One of the main reasons people say they don't donate blood is, "I've never been asked." UH nursing student **Elizabeth Kim now knows that to be true, and has a check towards her schooling to prove it.** After hearing about BBH's Summer Scholarship Program, which thanks students who significantly impact Hawaii's community by hosting a blood drive in their community during the summer, Elizabeth used emails, Facebook, and face-to-face invitations to rally 25 family members, friends and fellow nursing students to participate in her Memorial Day blood drive. "I now know there's power in 'the ask!'" says Elizabeth, congratulated here by BBH Field Representative Anne Klingshirn and Director of Donor Services Aaron Knapp.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### A Family Affair

Like many parents, Ethan Abbott wants to spend more quality time with his family. But with three grown children, each of whom have their own successful and busy life, finding a place and time to meet isn't always easy. So, what do they do to come together in a meaningful, interesting way?

**"Most parents take their kids to baseball games or the movies. I take mine to the donor center!"** joked Ethan as he glanced fondly at his two sons and son-in-law who joined him to donate at the new Young Street Donor Center one Saturday morning.

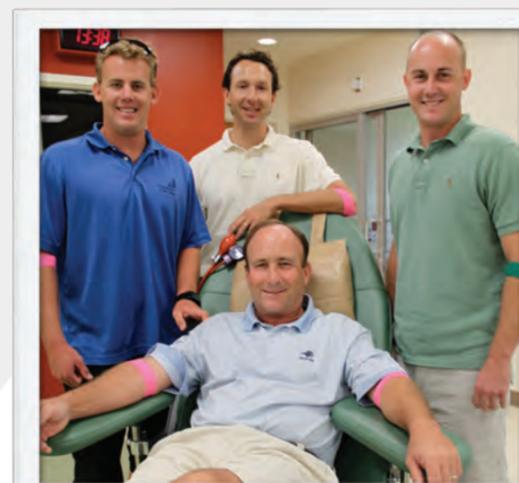
Ethan and his wife, Jean, have blazed a trail for their family in blood donations. Ethan's calling came as a college student in search of doing something good for others. It started with a simple blood donation at a community drive in Seattle. Two weeks later, his friend invited him to dinner at his home, where the friend's father, a surgeon, made a comment that has stuck with Ethan to this day, 40 years later.

"I was doing surgery today and saw your name on the blood bag," the father said to Ethan. "Your blood helped save a life."

"That opened my eyes to the importance of blood donations recalls Ethan. **"I remember thinking, 'Wow,' and realized at that moment, there is no purer gift in life than giving blood."**

Now a 124-pint whole blood donor, Ethan's random acts of kindness haven't gone unnoticed by his three children.

Sons Christopher, 31, and Eric, 26, vividly remember as youngsters seeing the colorful bands on their parents' arms. "They set an example



Standing L-R: Eric Abbott, Matt Joswick, Christopher Abbott. Sitting: Ethan Abbott

for us," recalled Christopher. "I started donating in high school and became my school's blood drive coordinator. I hoped my giving would influence my brother and sister."

"It did," added Eric. "At 17, I got my parents' consent to start donating. Now, I've come full circle. It's hard to turn away from something that is so easy to do...one hour of your time to help save lives. And you get free cookies too!"

To the Abbott family, including sister Megan and new son-in-law Matt Joswick, giving blood is a simple decision. Although blood donations are now anonymous, some things don't change, like the constant need for blood.

*"You never know who, or if you will need it," said Christopher. "The best thing to do is lead by example and hope others will follow—just like my parents showed us."*

**"Recently I donated blood for the first time in more than 20 years.** I instantly remembered how great it feels to save lives. It reminded me to encourage others about donating blood as an easy way that most of us can help people in our community."

- Fernando Pizarro, Customer Relations, HMSA



### Education is the Key

Samantha Hada, Lifesaver Club coordinator for HMSA, believes education is the key to a successful blood drive. "Many people just don't think about the need for blood until someone they know needs it. But once you understand that donors actually save lives, it's hard to say no."



HMSA has taken a creative approach and hosted a **"Lunch & Learn"** session with a simultaneous webcast and created a video of a first-time HMSA donor and his experience. Add food to the drive and you are assured of success!