



## IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE

*If you were to spend a day at a blood donor center, you'd hear all kinds of stories. One you'll often hear is how donors started donating. Ask them what inspires them to donate and they'll point to the person next to them. They're called blood buddies. Coworkers, siblings, boyfriend / girlfriend, they donate blood together.*

### **Brothers.**

Younger brother Brandon was making his appointment to donate when he decided it was time to encourage older brother Gabriel to give it a try. Four years apart, you can tell the brothers are close by how they interrupt and finish each other's sentences.

"I always meant to donate but never got around to it," Gabriel explained, gesturing to his brother. "The other day he asked me if I wanted to come with him and I said yes."

"I didn't really ask I just told him that he needed to come," interrupted Brandon with a smirk.

Quick to give his kid brother credit, Gabriel added with a

laugh, "Yea, he's always taking care of me. Years mean nothing. He's the 'older' one."

### **Coworkers.**

Shane and Donovan were both motivated to donate blood by those in their workplace. Working at City and County of Honolulu, all their coworkers were giving blood so they both thought they'd give it a try.

A relatively new donor, Shane had just started giving

when he was put in the same crew as five-year-donor Donovan.

"We found out through conversation that we both donate blood," Shane explained, "So we started scheduling our blood

donations at the same time. It's convenient for us and helps our supervisor out."

"It's easy. We both get reminder calls from BBH to donate," added Donovan.

Even with a hectic work schedule, these coworkers are committed to taking just one hour, every eight weeks to save lives.



*Gabriel and Brandon Griebenow.*



*Donovan Gomes and Shane Higa-Uruu.*



## The Ultimate Gift

Looking to give the ultimate gift? What could be better than saving a life? Donate blood between December 14th – 28th and you could win a Las Vegas vacation package for two including:

- Roundtrip airfare from Vacations Hawaii
- Four or five nights at the California Hotel
- 3 meals daily with roundtrip Las Vegas airport transfers

Double your chance to win by bringing your favorite travel buddy along to donate.

Go to [BBH.org](http://BBH.org) or call 848-4770 to make an appointment.

See [official rules](#) for complete details.



## We Want to Hear From You!

It may seem like a small thing but sharing your story inspires the community to donate blood and save lives. BBH is looking for blood recipients to motivate new donors and increase awareness about regular blood donation.

Encourage others to donate, email [stories@bbh.org](mailto:stories@bbh.org)



Storyteller Rachel Wong with blood donor and LSC coordinator Jack Lockwood.

Rachel shared her story at the 2014 Lifesaver Club Coordinator Recognition Breakfast.



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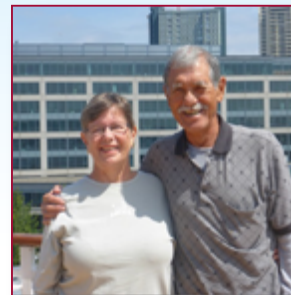
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### Husband and Wife.

Barbara and Jim were meant to be blood buddies. Both have been giving blood since before they met. Jim first gave blood in the 1960s as part of the ROTC at the University of Hawaii. Barbara started donating when she worked at Queen's Medical Center, back when Blood Bank of Hawaii was located inside the hospital.

"Once I met her it snowballed," Jim said, "and for the past 20 years we've continued to give blood." Now retired, the couple looks forward to their regular outing, where they know everyone and everybody knows their name.



Barbara and Jim Hamlin.

### Father and Son.



Donovan and Domino Lutao.

Domingo started giving blood in Vietnam with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and has been donating ever since.

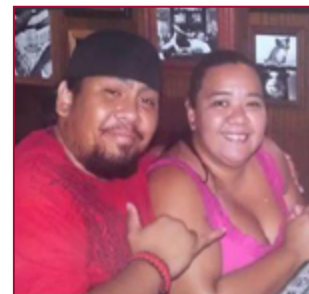
His son, Donovan, remembers seeing his Dad come home with a colored bandage around his arm every couple of months. Now that Donovan is 18-years-old, every eight weeks he and his Dad both come home with colored bandages.

"I schedule our appointments together," said Domingo. "The only thing is when I donate with him I have to treat him to lunch. He hasn't treated me yet," he said with a laugh.

### Girlfriend and Boyfriend.

Celina was inspired to donate blood as a student at Heald College. As a regular donor, she had 'donating blood as a couple' at the top of her list of things to do. So when she made her next appointment she signed Nathan up to donate and told him it was a date.

Nathan laughed as he explained, "Yes, she got me. But we're the same blood type so maybe her blood might save me one day!"



Nathan Anoc and Celina Naone.

Behind every blood donor there's a future blood donor waiting, after all, its blood donors who encourage others to roll up their sleeves and save lives. The next time you make an appointment to donate invite a friend to join you. Whether it's a date, a free lunch, or just to spend quality time together find your reason and find a blood buddy!

### In Their Words

*"I don't like needles, but with my brother it's like strength in numbers." - Gabriel*

*"We encourage and motivate one another to keep giving." - Donovan Gomes*

*"Donate alone or find a buddy. Just donate!" - Barbara*

*"Donating together is our father-son moment." - Donovan Lutao*

*"We want to give back to the community that was there for us when we needed help." - Celina*

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

On her way home from the hospital after getting a blood transfusion, 14-year-old Kennedy turned to her mom and said, "What would have happened if they didn't have blood or my blood type?" Jennifer Cummings couldn't even begin to imagine that.

"As a parent, you look at your child and you just don't know how to answer that question," she said, holding back tears.

It was almost a year ago that oldest daughter Kennedy was rushed to the emergency room. Menstrual irregularities over the course of a few months had caused her to lose massive amounts of blood. Severely anemic, the blood vessels in her eyes were no longer visible. Her eyes were a stark white.

"All the color in her face was gone. She was so weak. She couldn't even walk to the car to go to the hospital," Jennifer recalled.

Once at the hospital, Kennedy's blood test revealed that her red cell blood count had dropped from a normal 14 percent to a dangerous seven percent. She immediately received a blood transfusion.

For the Cummings family, the entire experience changed them. The night that Kennedy was in the hospital, three other patients received blood transfusions. At that moment, not only did they realize how important

## "What If?"

blood was for their daughter but for other patients as well. It was a need greater than any one of them could have imagined. "It really opened our eyes," explains Jennifer.

"When it comes to donating blood, you might think that you're just one person and you're not going to make an impact, but it makes a huge difference."

Inspired to become regular donors, her father Brian recounted how amazing the transformation was, "Just two pints of blood brought life back into my daughter. You don't realize how important donating blood is until you're on the receiving end of it. We're just so grateful."

Kennedy recently celebrated her birthday. Reflecting on this, her father said, "Without blood donors, she wouldn't be your typical teenage girl, borrowing makeup from her mom and sneaking clothes from sister Ashtyn's closet."



*The Cummings Family. From left; Ashtyn, Jennifer, Brian and Kennedy Cummings.*

"After I received blood, I wished there was a way for me to thank the donors, like a name or an email address on the blood," Kennedy said, smiling.

"If I knew who they were I would hug them and tell them, thank you so much for saving my life. It means the world to me."

"I kept seeing the 'blood donors needed' sign and thought, 'what if my kids need blood one day?'"

- Arielle Adenew



*New Lifesaver Club Coordinators Amber Iwamoto and Arielle Adenew from Olivet Baptist Church.*



## From Blood Donors to Coordinators

This past September, Amber Iwamoto was on her way to donate her 100th pint of blood when coworker Arielle Adenew asked, "Can I join you?"

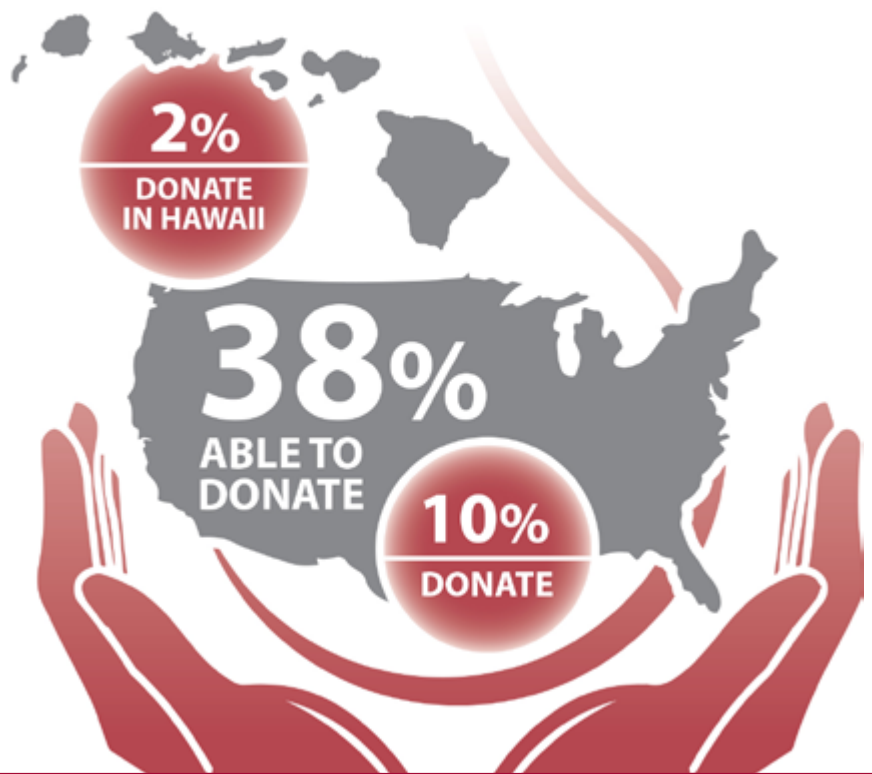
Arielle always wanted to donate but was scared. Going with a friend made it easy. Two months later, Arielle is no longer hesitant about donating. In fact, she and Amber are not only blood buddies but Lifesaver Club coordinators for their own drive at Olivet Baptist Church.

Amber and Arielle were among the first to use the new Lifesaver Club handbook designed to teach new coordinators all about the importance of blood donation and how to host/recruit for blood drives. In honor of their names, this A-team has rated the new tool an A and are getting rave reviews from their members too.

Are you on social media? Link your blood drive with us at [facebook.com/bloodbankhawaii](https://facebook.com/bloodbankhawaii), Twitter and Instagram. Tag us with [@bloodbankhawaii](https://twitter.com/bloodbankhawaii).

# DID YOU KNOW?

One of the top reasons why someone doesn't donate is because they weren't asked. An estimated 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, but less than 10 percent actually do each year. In Hawaii, only two percent of the population donates blood. The next time you make an appointment ask someone to join you. Donating together is both fun and rewarding.



## Blood Bank of Hawaii

2043 Dillingham Boulevard  
Honolulu, HI 96819-4024  
Phone: (808) 848-4770  
Neighbor Islands: (800) 372-9966

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

### 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, seven days a week.

### 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.

\* Last appointment 45 minutes prior to close.

