



Blood Bank of Hawaii

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

For Immediate Release

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A THANKSGIVING STORY – “WHAT IF?”

HONOLULU – After 14-year-old Kennedy received a blood transfusion, her first question to her parents was, “What would have happened if they didn’t have blood or my blood type?” Her parents, Brian and Jennifer Cummings, didn’t know how to answer her question. A month ago she had been a happy teenage girl, preoccupied with borrowing makeup from her mom and sneaking clothes from her sister’s closet. Then, she was in the emergency room receiving blood.

The family took a photo before Kennedy’s transfusion. Sitting in the hospital bed between her father and sister, her eyes were a stark white. All the color in her face was gone, the blood vessels in her eyes no longer visible. Kennedy’s blood test revealed that her red cell blood count had dropped from a normal 14 percent to a dangerous seven percent. Severely anemic, she needed a blood transfusion immediately.

For the Cummings family, the entire experience changed them. The night Kennedy was in the hospital, three other patients received blood transfusions. At that moment, not only did Brian and Jennifer realize how important blood was for their daughter but for other patients as well. It was a need greater than any one of them could have imagined. “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,” said Jennifer.

“Blood donors brought life back into my daughter. You don’t realize how important donating blood is until you’re on the receiving end, added Brian. “We’re just so grateful.”

Brian and Jennifer Cummings are now regular blood donors. Their younger daughter Ashtyn is looking forward to being a future blood donor. Kennedy can’t wait to be involved with her high school’s blood drive coordination program. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the Cummings family will visit Blood Bank of Hawaii’s Dillingham Donor Center to thank donors for the impact their donations have had on their family.

Hawaii’s patients should never have to wonder “what if” blood products will be available. About 200 blood donors are needed every day to ensure the right blood type and amounts are on the shelves when patients need them. This holiday season, be one of 200 blood donors to roll up your sleeves and give the gift of life.

Call 848-4770 or visit www.BBH.org to schedule an appointment.

- MORE -



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About Blood Bank of Hawaii

Founded in 1941, Blood Bank of Hawaii (BBH) is a non-profit organization committed to providing a safe and adequate supply of blood, blood products and related transfusion services to Hawaii's patients. BBH is licensed and regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, accredited by AABB, and a founding member of America's Blood Centers, the nation's largest network of community-based blood programs. For more information, visit www.BBH.org.

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