

# YOUR BABY'S Cord Blood COULD Save a Life

The blood that remains in the umbilical cord and placenta after the birth of a child, called "cord blood," is a rich source of stem cells for blood and marrow transplants (BMT). Approximately 70 percent of BMT patients do not find matching donors within their families and must receive transplants from donor registries.

As you prepare for the birth of your baby, please consider donating your baby's cord blood. The focus of your labor and delivery remains on you and your baby, and the birth will not be affected by the collection of the cord blood, which is collected after your baby is born.

Cord blood is needed from people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds in order to match the diverse tissue types of patients as closely as possible. We identify the cord blood type and list it on the registry of the National Marrow Donor Program®, which operates the largest and most racially and ethnically diverse donor registry available worldwide. The cord blood is stored in a public cord blood bank until it is needed.

*For more information, or to learn how you can participate, contact The Dan Berger Cord Blood Program at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC at 412-209-7479.*



*Samantha Gallo is a thankful mother.*

*When her son, Drew Gallo, was 3 years old in 2002, he was diagnosed with leukemia. Doctors at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh decided something had to be done quickly - sooner than waiting for Drew's expectant mother, to give birth to a baby brother or sister who might be a suitable match to donate bone marrow to Drew. The doctors decided on a cord blood transplant: a transfusion of stem cell-rich blood that had been collected from the umbilical cord of a newborn baby and stored in a public cord blood bank. Today, Drew is an active 9-year-old who plays football. In his spare time he sells candy to raise money to increase cord blood collection awareness.*

Provide a **LIFELINE** to the **FUTURE**, donate your baby's **CORD BLOOD!**

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