The Saturday after Thanksgiving 2005 Ellen Mack and her husband, Ted, met all of their children and grandchildren, three daughters, three grandson and five grandchildren, at the Dallas World Aquarium. They were sharing a final few hours of the holiday weekend together and celebrating Ellen's birthday.

After arriving in Dallas, Ellen felt very weak, with barely the strength to walk. She had sudden and severe symptoms of internal abdominal bleeding that did not abate. She barely had the strength to get to the hospital.

The first four days in the hospital she continued to lose blood; twice she was near death. Repeated transfusions of donor blood were given to Ellen during that time.

The exact location and cause of the bleeding could not be determined but by the middle of the next week, after 11 units of blood were given to her, Ellen's blood counts slowly began to elevate and so did her strength. The replenishment of blood had allowed healing to begin. Eight days later she was well enough to leave the hospital.

It took many months for Ellen to be able to completely resume her life as wife, mother, grandmother and CEO of a corporate intelligence company. Excellent medical care and readily available donor blood enabled Ellen to return to a full productive life.