Larry Johnson
Charter President 2008-09
Rotary Club of Fleming Island

Larry, the owner of an asset management firm and part time vocalist and acoustic & bass guitar player, began donating whole blood with the Florida-Georgia (FL-GA) Blood Alliance a number of years ago. The staff of the Alliance pushed him to donate platelets biweekly instead of whole blood bimonthly. His initial response was "Who has that sort of time, right?"

When a friend of his entered into cancer treatments that could possibly have required platelet and plasma transfusions, he became a platelet donor immediately and claims he has never regretted it. The donor center he uses offers Wi-Fi access, so he said he don't even miss time in his office while he was donating.

Larry became the charter president of the Rotary Club of Fleming Island (RCFI) a couple of years after beginning biweekly platelet donation. He learned that two of the charter members were entering courses of treatment for different types of cancer. The FL-GA Blood Alliance has a program in which organizations like RCFI can get a 20% discount on all blood products regardless of insurance coverage if at least 50% of its members donate at least once per year, so he set up an account for RCFI with the FL-GA Blood Alliance to address the potential transfusion needs of these new Rotarians and their families.

RCFI has hosted three very successful community blood drives so far and will continue to do so regularly. Several of other members have become regular donors and Larry says he is happy to lead the effort by example.

Larry claims that making a positive difference matters to him and states

> *"what better way to make a life giving difference than with donating blood products? Rich and poor alike have the same gifts to give, and rich and poor alike have the same needs to be filled. I imagine that my eight gallons (and counting!) of donated blood products have helped someone somewhere."*
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> *"I don't care if anyone ever knows my name, but I care deeply that my willingness to give intersects with someone's need to receive."*

More about Larry

Larry has been married for twelve years to a woman he calls “the most wonderful wife you can imagine” and he is father to an eight year old son and a five year old daughter. He owns an asset management firm that he claims “seems to specialize in turning the ruins of failed client-advisor relationships into promising generational partnerships.”

Larry serves as a vocalist and acoustic & bass guitar player for the band in his church, and also in the same capacities with the Celebrate Recovery ministry at a different church. He is on the Clay County YMCA board of directors as the director of membership. He is on faculty with the Rotary Leadership Institute and is currently serving as the charter president of RCFI after been the District Governor’s special representative for the RCFI charter. He likes to rock climb, play golf, and listen to music, read, write, and is involved in fitness activities.

He claims, “I measure my wealth not by how much I have, but by how little I need.”