A Mission That Hits Close to Home

One out of every three people will need a blood transfusion in his or her lifetime, which means there's a good chance someone you know and love will need to depend on the generosity of blood donors for survival. Blood donation doesn't just affect *other* people; its impact hits close to home.

Just ask the Wade family. Kay and Jim Wade's teenage daughter Kaitlyn has encountered two life-threatening events in her short lifetime. During both events, blood made the difference.

At the age of three, Kaitlyn was diagnosed with leukemia, but with the support of family, friends, a great medical team and available blood and platelets, Kaitlyn survived what can be described as a parent's worst nightmare.

Seven years later, tragedy struck again when the car Kaitlyn was in was hit by a drunk driver. She was careflighted to Cook Children's Medical Center where doctors gave a grim prognosis. Kaitlyn had suffered a severe brain injury and multiple fractures. The first 24 hours alone she required 12 blood transfusions. Once again, Kaitlyn survived, and although the road to recovery has been long, the Wades are continuously grateful to the many blood donors who played such a significant role in their daughter's life.

Rotary Makes a Difference

Since 1996, Rotarians have contributed to the lifesaving mission of blood donation through its *Governors' Challenge* blood drives.

Hundreds of thousands of Rotary donors and other donors who are encouraged to give through Rotaries efforts have given blood. Considering that every unit of blood saves up to three lives, it's accurate to say that Rotarians have impacted at least a million lives. For each of these lives, the impact is huge.

Just ask the Wade family.

Please help make a difference.

Give blood. ***Often.***