Roger Jahnel
Garland, Texas

The gift of life through donated blood has become very personal for one family. Until 7 years ago, 76 year old Roger Jahnel never thought he had much reason to worry about his health. The following June, he had a stroke while playing golf. During his hospital stay the doctors were having problems stabilizing his blood counts. By April of 2006, he suffered a recurrence of prostate cancer and had 39 radiation treatments. After that it became almost impossible to bring up Roger's blood counts. The continuing need to bolstering his blood counts made the doctor fairly confident that Roger had been suffering from Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), a complex blood disease; a bone marrow test confirmed this diagnosis.

Roger was forced to return to the hospital twice over a period of three months to be given fresh infusions of blood. Treatment for the MDS proved rocky, and in April of 2008 Roger needed three units of blood and two units of platelets. In the space of a year, Roger had to have 9 units of blood replaced. He and his family were justifiably concerned. However stabilizing treatments finally proved effective – drug treatment combined with the availability of fresh donor blood brought his blood counts back to normal.

Both Roger and his wife, Judy, have made many wonderful friends on this journey. In addition both say they could not have made the journey without the support of their four adult children and their loving grandchildren.

Roger and his family's gift to others who need blood has come through chairing the Garland Rotary Club blood drive at Firewheel Mall. They all participate as a family in this annual event.

Pictures
Roger and Judy
Grandson, Roger David Jahnel, 'helping' at the 2008 blood drive.