Roger Jahnel
Garland, Texas

Until 7 years ago, 76 year old Roger Jahnel never thought he had much reason to worry about his health. He had no evident serious health problems until he was 69 when he suffered a TIA during his weekly Rotary meeting. The following June, he had a stroke while playing golf. During his hospital stay the doctors were having problems stabilizing his blood counts and called in a hematologist who also specialized in oncology. Roger had been suffering from Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS); a bone marrow test confirmed this diagnosis.

By April of 2006, he suffered a recurrence of prostate cancer and had 39 radiation treatments. Three months later his hematologist started weekly shots of a new drug, Aranesp, in an effort to bring up Roger's blood counts.

Roger was forced to return to the hospital twice over a period of three months to be given fresh infusions of blood. 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 drug treatments and transfusions of fresh blood finally proved effective –Roger's blood counts are near normal.

Roger's gift to others who need blood has come through his chairing of the Garland Rotary Club blood drive at Firewheel Mall.

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