Ron Parker, His Story: ***It Could Happen to Anyone.***

In 2006, 52 year old Ron Parker was an active successful business man, husband and father. Ron, very athletic, really enjoyed working out, but one day he ruptured a disc in his lower back in a weight lifting accident. The injury required two back surgeries and nine months of recuperation. In spite of the fact that his back was healing and doing well, a year later, he still was not regaining his strength.

By April 2008, he was feeling very poorly and had shortness of breath. A thorough physical determined that he had a severe atrium arrhythmia with a heart rate over 160 beats per minute, double the normal rate. His red blood count was half what it should have been indicating he had internal bleeding. He was immediately admitted to Cardiac ICU to bring his heart under control and determine the cause of the bleeding.

Immediately Ron received several units of blood to help restore his strength and reduce the stress on his heart. Ron said he could actually feel life being restored in his body while he regained his strength. In August of 2008, Ron underwent a very risky eight hour catheter surgery to cauterize the interior of the atrium of his heart. This surgery was tremendously successful and Ron is now free from any heart issues and lives without any medications.

None of that would have been possible if donor blood had not been available to allow Ron to get his strength back so he could tolerate the tests and surgeries. Today Ron says:

> ***"There are so many things I took for granted. While I had given blood myself, I did not realize how important it really is. Now I think, 'what if there was no available blood'. When someone gives blood, he or she is giving life to someone else. This sort of thing could happen to anyone"***

Shortly after regaining his health, Ron joined the Rotary Club of Fort Worth South so that he could begin to give back to the community which had done so much for him.