



## **Umbilical Cord Blood – Link to Life Community Partners Say . . .**

*Many of our community partners are available for further comment by contacting HC One Communications and Program Associate RoiAnn Phillips, by phone at 312.243.4772, ext. 233 or by email at [rphillips@healthconnectone.org](mailto:rphillips@healthconnectone.org).  
Thank you.*

"While it is clear that umbilical cord blood transplants offer the possibility of cure to many patients with leukemia, the availability of matched units for minorities continues to lag that of Caucasians. The *[Transfusion]* report provides a starting point for all in the field of cord blood banking and transplantation to understand more about this disparity and more importantly, how to begin to remedy it."

- ***Dr. Patrick Stiff, Loyola University Medical Center***

"12,500 children will be diagnosed with pediatric cancer this year; many of those will need stem cell transplants but will not find related donors to make that possible. Thanks to cord blood donations they may find their donors and life. Please consider giving life by donating umbilical cord blood to those suffering from life threatening illnesses like pediatric cancer."

- ***Kathleen A. Casey, President and Founder of the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation***

"Our families want to donate their umbilical cord blood. When they learn they can help to save lives, they're very interested. They want to understand the process, they're surprised it's free, and they want to know if it hurts. We're very happy to pilot this project which supports Mercy staff in answering these questions, and educating our patients about their umbilical cord blood options."

- ***Denise Delves, RN, CNM, MS, Director of Perinatal and Pediatric Services, Mercy Hospital and Medical Center***

"What would prevent me from donating is not knowing about it. Not knowing... How can you donate it, if they don't tell you about it or inform you...?"

- ***Birthing Mom, considering umbilical cord blood donation***

"I found out about the cord [blood] donation through my doctor. She just told me it was a very easy process, no needles, no pain, it was a very safe procedure to do. It's free... I thought about my baby. ...what if my baby was sick or needed something, I would want somebody to help ... And I thought of other babies that might not have that opportunity if I just decided not to donate it, so it felt good. ... I think I'm gonna make a difference in his way of thought as far as encouraging him to give back. I think we're on this world to give

back and help somebody. Cuz who knows, today I'm healthy, tomorrow I don't know, I might not be healthy. So..."

- ***Jeanette Avila, Donor with infant son***

"I cherish every single day and give deep heartfelt thanks to the anonymous cord [blood] donor. Simply donating their baby's umbilical cord [blood] gave another child, my son, 'life!'"

- ***Cassie Colyer, Mother of a transplant survivor treated at Children's Memorial Hospital***

### ***Related Quotes:***

"Blood stem cell transplantation offers the possibility of a cure for Americans with leukemia and other life threatening blood and genetic disorders. Blood stem cells for these transplants can be obtained from the bone marrow or circulating blood of volunteer adult donors, or collected by the newest source, the umbilical cord and placenta after a normal birth. Each year approximately 38,000 people under the age of 55 are diagnosed with these fatal illnesses, and about 16,000 of them cannot be successfully treated with therapy other than a blood stem cell transplant."

- ***U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), in its FY 2009 budget justification for the National Cord Blood Inventory***

"... an area of stem cell research and treatment that is indisputably acceptable on moral grounds and remarkably promising in terms of clinical benefits: The use of umbilical cord blood retrieved immediately after live births... Umbilical cord blood stem cells have successfully treated thousands of patients with dozens of diseases. They also exhibit properties once associated chiefly with embryonic stem cells: They grow rapidly in culture, producing enough cells to be clinically useful in both children and adults; they can treat patients who are not an exact genetic match, without being rejected as foreign tissue; and they seem able to produce a wide array of different cell types."

- ***Cardinal William H. Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, in a letter of July 11, 2005 on behalf of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops***