

Gift of Life

Paying it forward so others might live



David and daughter, Maddy

Today, she's an energetic, fun and outgoing teenager, active in numerous church and junior high activities. When she was four years old, it was a different story.

Pulmonary Hemosiderosis – fancy medical terminology for a “collection of blood in the lung of unknown origin.”

“Someone must have recognized the need and acted selflessly to “pay it forward” for someone they would never know.”

- David W. Deuth

While I still wished it could have been my own, I realized that someone had to donate it in order for her to receive it. Someone must have understood what it meant to give something so precious, yet expected nothing in return.

I received my three-gallon pin from Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center when I donated last month. Every time I go there and roll up my sleeve to pay it forward to someone that I might never know, I recall that terrifying day when someone else's gift paid it forward for us. And, it saved our daughter's life.

We'll never know who the donor was. We don't need to. I'll just pay it forward for someone else.

David W. Deuth

Before her transfusions began, I quickly offered to be the blood donor. “That's great,” the nurse told me. “We can always use blood donations. But, she needs blood immediately – we'll have to use blood that's already been donated and screened.”

As our prayers were answered and our own precious miracle was evident before us, I began to think about the blood that revived our daughter's life.

Madelyn started presenting peculiar symptoms for an active toddler: lethargy and escalating anemia. Over a short period of time, her skin became so pale that she had virtually no color in her fingernails or even her gums. Something was terribly wrong.

The short story is that our little Maddy was ultimately diagnosed with a rare condition known as Idiopathic

Help save lives in your community

Sponsored by:

Soldiers' Angels

At the:

**West County EMS &
Fire Protection District**

Saturday, February 13

9:00am – 1:00pm

To Donate Contact: Shelly Heller (314) 413-2150

You are ELIGIBLE to donate if:

- You are in good health
- You are at least 17 years old (16 with signed Parental Consent Form)
- You weigh at least 110 pounds
- And you have not donated blood in the last 56 days (or in the last 112 days if your last donation was a double-red cell donation)

www.bloodcenter.org | 800.747.5401

Ottumwa 800.452.1097 | St. Louis 800.591.8049



**Mississippi Valley
REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER**
How Life Flows Through Our Community®