

Hoxworth

BLOOD CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI 

SAVING LIVES
Close To Home
Since 1938

2022

COMMUNITY REPORT



Saving Lives Close To Home

Patient Care • Research • Education • Public Health

Our Mission

To enhance the well-being of patients in our service area by assuring a reliable and economical supply of the safest possible blood, by providing innovative hemotherapy services, and by promoting research and education programs in transfusion medicine.

Our Vision

Hoxworth Blood Center will be recognized for saving and improving lives in our community with safe and reliable blood and innovative cell therapies.

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From The Director

José Cancelas, MD, PhD
 Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Cancelas began leading Hoxworth in February 2018. He is the fifth director in the 84-year history of Hoxworth, the second-oldest blood center in the nation.

He also has served in several other positions with Hoxworth since 2000, including division director of research, medical director for the Hoxworth Cellular Therapies Division and deputy director.

Dr. Cancelas remains active in Hoxworth research as co-director, with a focus on executing clinical trials.

The year 2022 delivered great satisfaction in all that we accomplished as a team here at Hoxworth Blood Center.

Hoxworth transitioned all its data to a new computer system to better serve donors and hospital partners. Months of preparation went into this transition, including an operational shutdown of zero blood and platelet collections, as well as the launching of a new online donor registration and screening tool called QuickPass. Donors and Hoxworth staff met and overcame the challenges to launch a successful new program while maintaining a healthy blood supply.

A big heartfelt THANK YOU to our donors, who exceedingly answer many calls to donate blood or platelets, but especially when critical needs arise. Know that you continue to make a difference in our community!

The use of red cells, platelets, plasma, transplantation services and cell therapies as treatment for patients in our community remains as high as ever. Our mission to supply our partner hospitals with safe blood and platelet products remains steadfast, and our donors are key in making this happen.

Community blood drives such as William's Wish (highlighted on page 10) continue to elevate the impact of blood donation in our community. In support of William, Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval and our U.S. congressional representatives promoted the event with a blood donation and social media awareness. We appreciate their support!

Also making a huge impact in our operations is the more than 100 volunteers who support our mission with uncountable hours to assist donors at blood drives, bake cookies at our donor centers and deliver blood products back to the labs for processing. To these individuals, thank you for sharing your valuable time.

Lastly, but certainly not in the least, is the important work being performed by our laboratories. Many in the community may not know, but work performed by our Cellular Therapies Lab, Apheresis Program and Transplantation Immunology Division (TID) also support our lifesaving mission. In 2023, our capacity to serve cell therapy products will see an increase with the completion of a clean room expansion in our blood center.

As featured on page 13, TID helped to restore the eyesight of an international soccer star by performing transplant tissue matching to ensure that the body won't reject the graft. Amazing work that I'm proud to be a part of and share.

Our goal for 2023 remains unwavering: to encourage more people to donate blood and platelets so we can continue the impactful work of **Saving Lives Close To Home.**

**An Internationally
Recognized Leader in
Transfusion Medicine**

Hoxworth Blood Center, University of Cincinnati, is the only blood center in the Greater Cincinnati area. Serving Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, Hoxworth collects, tests, processes, and distributes blood and blood components to more than 30 area hospitals and medical facilities. Additionally, Hoxworth provides numerous clinical services to area hospitals.

Founded by Dr. Paul I. Hoxworth in 1938, Hoxworth has become an internationally recognized leader in transfusion medicine. Today, Hoxworth has a staff of more than 270 full-time and part-time employees in 21 departments and a complement of more than 300 volunteers.

Hoxworth Senior Leadership Team

• Cabinet Members

#WeAreHoxworth



• **José Cancelas MD, PhD**
Director
Chief Executive Officer



• **Caroline Alquist MD, PhD**
Division Director
Chief Transplant Services Officer



• **Judith Gonzalez BS, MT (ASCP), CLS**
Division Director
Chief Production Officer



• **David Oh MD**
Division Director
Clinical Services
Chief Medical Officer



Janice Habel BS, MT (ASCP)
Division Director
Quality Assurance
Regulatory Affairs



Tom Leemhuis PhD
Division Director
Cellular Therapies



Carolyn Lutzko PhD
Division Director
Regenerative Medicine
Cellular Therapies



Peter Koch MBA
Interim Executive
Director
Business and
Administration

Community Advisory Board

- Richard Aft, PhD, Philanthropic Leadership
- Nicholas Apanius, Messer Construction Co.
- Dawn Berryman, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- John Byczkowski, retired, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati
- Bernie Calonge, retired, Marsh
- Chris Carle, retired, St. Elizabeth Provider Network
- Alfonso Cornejo, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Phillip Diller, MD, PhD, UC College of Medicine
- Andrew Filak, MD, UC Academic Health Center
- Rick Hall, Fidelity Investments
- Renee Mahaffey Harris, Closing the Health Gap
- Helen Hartmann, Morgan Stanley
- DJ Hodge, iHeartMedia Markets Group - Cincinnati
- Carla Howard, Kelly Youth Services

- Bret Marshall, CTI Clinical Trial & Consulting HQ
- Barry Massa, LifeCenter Organ Donor Network
- Neha Matta, JD, The Health Collaborative
- Carol Metzger, University of Cincinnati
- Joe Michels, Michels Construction
- Valerie Miller, DXC Technology
- Matt Morgan, Grant County School District
- Colleen O'Toole, PhD, retired, The Health Collaborative
- Jamie Rausch, GE Aviation
- Ronald A. Sacher, MD, Hoxworth Blood Center (Emeritus)
- Robert J. Sinkhorn, Affect Partners LLC
- Miska Spaulding, Kroger Precision Marketing, 84.51°
- Jill Waters, St. Elizabeth Dearborn Hospital
- Karen Schuster Webb, Union Institute & University
- Karen Yunker, MT (ASCP), St. Elizabeth/Edgewood

HOXWORTH
By the Numbers **2022**

Blood Collections by Product



Red Cells
92,081

Platelets
12,496

Plasma
4,178



Number of Donors by Blood Type

O+	17,561 — 37.77%	O-	4,643 — 9.99%
A+	13,060 — 28.09%	A-	2,871 — 6.17%
B+	3,700 — 7.96%	B-	768 — 1.65%
AB+	1,217 — 2.62%	AB-	221 — 0.48%

Best Month (Platelets + Red Cells): March — 10,993 units collected

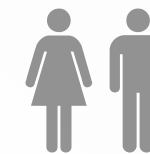
Donor Profile

46,495 — Unique donors
8,748 — First-time donors
26,489 — Female (56.97%)
19,878 — Male (42.75%)



Donors by Age:

7,498 (16%) — 24 and under
9,650 (21%) — 25-39
7,677 (38%) — 40-60
11,544 (25%) — 60+



Neighborhood Donor Centers (NDC)

No. of Donors by NDC Location

Blue Ash — 19,588
Ft. Mitchell — 18,168
Anderson — 14,931
West — 10,857
North — 10,625
Tri-County — 7,197
Central — 7,166



Mobile Drive Collections

598 — No. of Mobile Drives
20,503 — Total Units Collected
(Red cells, platelets, plasma)



Fundraising

(July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

\$200,608 — Total raised
178 — Total No. of contributors
\$ 22,346 — Golf fundraiser



Blood Collections by NDC + Mobile Drive Partners

Donor Centers	— 79%	79%
Businesses	— 9%	9%
Hospitals	— 2%	4%
Faith Based	— 4%	3%
High Schools	— 3%	2%
Colleges	— 2%	2%



Cellular Therapy Laboratory Team

Research & EDUCATION

VIRUS SPECIFIC T-CELLS PROGRAM: Success Leads To Facility Expansion

The lifetime work of Thomas Leemhuis, PhD, and his team in the Cellular Therapies Lab at Hoxworth Blood Center is best summed up by Leemhuis himself: “We provide a variety of therapeutic cellular therapy products and services to patients, and we manufacture immunotherapy products for clinical trials,” he said.

For 22 years, Leemhuis has directed the Cellular Therapies Department at Hoxworth, growing the lab in both personnel and space to support patients undergoing bone marrow transplants or stem cell transplants at UC Health, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), Good Samaritan Hospital, Jewish Hospital and Akron Children’s Hospital, as well as the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP).

One particular immunotherapy program involves work that started 10 years ago with the help of a \$300,000 research grant from the Heimlich Foundation and financial support from CCHMC. The program, called Virus-Specific T-Cells (VST), was originally developed at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, but Hoxworth scientists implemented the technology locally and are now expanding its cleanroom facilities to accommodate the growth in clinical trials.

“Construction of the expanded facility is underway and will be completed by the end of 2023,” said Hoxworth CEO José Cancelas, MD, PhD. “The expanded cleanroom facility will be the basis of a state-of-the-art immunotherapies and gene therapy products for patients in need.”



We are among the top cell therapy labs in the country, and I’m proud of the work we do here. Our team is committed to clinical service and developing new technologies and finding ways to use those technologies to treat patients.”

— Thomas Leemhuis, PhD, director Cellular Therapy Lab, Hoxworth Blood Center

The VST cell therapy program helps a patient’s immune system fight viruses that can occur in immunocompromised people after a hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) or solid organ transplant. Although the VST cell therapy is experimental, the clinical trial data shows promising results with 80-85% response rates in patient recovery.

The process all starts with a sample of patient’s blood. A cell therapy technologist stimulates the sample with viral antigens. The sample is then cultured for 12 days, harvested and cryopreserved before being thawed, tested and sent directly to a patient so they can fight infection before their own immune system is able.

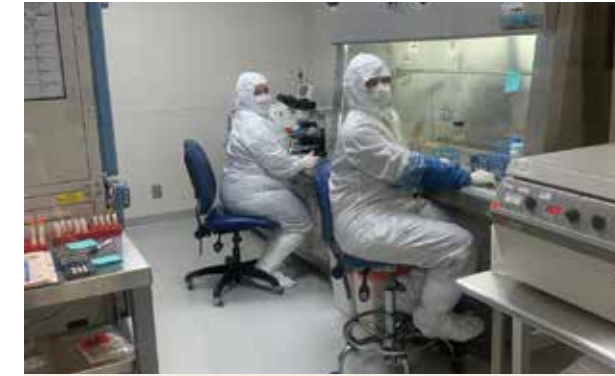
Because of the VST Cell program’s success, Ohio State University’s Arther G. James Cancer Hospital will soon join a

growing list of Ohio transplant programs that participate in a multi-center clinical trial that is led by physicians at CCHMC.

Leemhuis is an associate professor at the University of Cincinnati, who, as director of Hoxworth’s cellular therapy department, leads a team of 10 technologists who perform a variety of stem cell graft manipulation and cryopreservation procedures. The team also participates in the manufacture of cell therapy products for clinical trials.

With the field of cellular therapy growing exponentially on a global scale, the University of Cincinnati began offering a cellular therapies course as part of its graduate education in the College of Allied Health. The course is taught by Leemhuis and “has become crucial to the training and education of a cell therapy oriented workforce who help bring the gift of therapeutic cells to patients in need in Cincinnati and elsewhere,” Dr. Cancelas said.

Meanwhile, the cellular therapy team looks forward to working in the newly expanded cleanroom to begin helping more people. The work, said Daria Heyenbruch and Michelle Frondorf, lead cell therapy technologists, is gratifying. “Hearing that a patient recovered after receiving one of our products is very rewarding,” Heyenbruch said. Frondorf added: “It’s very rewarding for us to deliver products to clinical sites, right to a patient’s room and meet their families who are most grateful for this lifesaving procedure.”



Hoxworth Cell Therapy Technologists Kayleigh Brown, left, and Robin Stickler work in the cleanroom to prepare to harvest and cryopreserve a virus-specific T cell culture. Brown is performing the cell count while Stickler is centrifuging the cells to remove the culture media.

Cellular Infusion Types Manufactured at Hoxworth



Kayleigh Brown, cell therapy technologist at Hoxworth Blood Center, transports a frozen immunotherapy product to the transplant unit at UC Health so she could thaw it and give it to the nurse for immediate patient infusion.

	2022 Units Infused
HPC - Apheresis	184
HPC - Marrow	54
HPC - Cord Blood	8
CAR-T	29
Virus-Specific T Cells	209

Research Notes

The research of Ramesh Nayak, PhD, research assistant professor in Hoxworth Blood Center’s academic department, has been accepted in the journal *Blood*, the official journal of the *American Society of Hematology* and the reference for anybody who is interested in learning about blood and blood diseases. In this manuscript, he and collaborators have identified a novel molecular mechanism for which blood stem cells regulate their fate and ability to make blood cells: red cells, platelets or leukocytes.



Ramesh Nayak, PhD

Hoxworth’s Chief Medical Officer, David Oh, MD, won the Association of Donor Relations Professionals (ADRP) Ronald O. Gilcher MD Award. The award, presented in May 2022 at the ADRP Conference in Phoenix, Ariz., is given to a leader in a blood center with significant contributions to the industry.



David Oh, MD

Dr. Oh led Hoxworth Blood Center’s successful program to collect, manufacture and distribute thousands of units of COVID-19 convalescent plasma (CCP). A multi-center study led by Johns Hopkins University and published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, in which Hoxworth has participated, has demonstrated the efficacy of CCP for the treatment of a specific cohort of high-risk COVID-19 patients.

TOP

Lists of LIFESAVERS

Our many partnerships with colleges, businesses, hospitals, faith organizations, community organizations, and schools are as vital to our community blood supply as our individual donors.

2022 Blood Collections

Our Top 10 community blood drive partners collected a total of 12,530 units of blood.



Photo Credit: UC Professor Charles Matthews

College Partners

1. University of Cincinnati	1,033
2. UC (Blue Ash, Clermont, Medical)	209
3. Xavier University	174
4. Northern Kentucky University	136
5. Mount St. Joseph University	94
6. Thomas More University	66
7. IBEW	43
8. Ivy Tech College	31
9. Galen College of Nursing	18
10. Gateway Community & Technical	16

1,820
Total Units

Faith Partners

1. Knights of Columbus, Bright	262
2. Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Healthy	195
3. Crossroads Church (Mason, Oakley, Westside)	193
4. St. Columban Catholic Church	184
5. St. Maximilian Kolbe	161
6. St. Cecilia Catholic Church	135
7. Sardinia Church of Christ	131
8. St. Joseph Parish Cold Spring	126
9. St. Anthony of Padua	117
10. St. John the Evangelist	110

1,614
Total Units

Business Partners

1. Montgomery Inn	444
2. Kroger	274
3. MedPace	248
4. Ethicon	214
5. Graeter's Ice Cream	173
6. Western & Southern	170
7. Cincinnati Financial Corporation	152
8. Skyline Chili	144
9. LaRosa's	109
10. Busken Bakery	104

2,032
Total Units

TOP Lists of LIFESAVERS

Hospital Partners

1. Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	2,104
2. St. Elizabeth Healthcare	1,533
3. TriHealth	671
4. Bon Secours Mercy Health	417
5. UC Health	342
6. The Christ Hospital	329
7. Cincinnati VA Medical Center	271
8. Margaret Mary Health	209
9. Highland District Hospital	184
10. Adams County Regional Medical Center	60

6,120
Total Units

High School Partners

1. Rising Sun High School	149
2. West Clermont High School	125
3. William Henry Harrison High School	94
4. Kings High School	90
5. Roger Bacon High School	86
6. Moeller High School	85
7. Batavia High School	82
8. Milan High School	80
9. Ryle High School	79
10. Cooper High School	74

944
Total Units

Extra Special Community Blood Drives

William's Wish, a Greater Cincinnati community blood drive, kicked off in the fall with a pep rally at his high school to inspire new blood donors to give and save countless lives through a young man's wish to help save lives.

William, an 18-year-old Fairfield High School senior, has been battling leukemia and used his partnership with Make-A-Wish® Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, to take the focus off his illness and give back to his community.

To give back, William and Make-A-Wish® Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana teamed up with Hoxworth Blood Center to fulfill his wish of holding a blood drive as a thank you to the community for all it has given him during his battle with leukemia. During treatment, William, of Liberty Township, realized how vital blood donations are to kids with critical illnesses like him.

"William selflessly chose a wish that will positively impact countless people, and we're so grateful to Hoxworth for helping make this community blood drive possible," said Stephanie McCormick, President & CEO, Make-A-Wish Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana.

As for William's wish, it came true; he inspired nearly 1,100 blood and platelet donors (54 new donors) to give back thus Saving Lives Close To Home.



1,100 units of blood and platelets were donated in honor of William's Wish

"William's Wish really is a shining example of the power of a wish to transform lives and unite communities."

— Stephanie McCormick

Make-A-Wish® Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana President & CEO



Inspired by his Wish, Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval visited the Hoxworth Central location in honor of William. William had hoped to be there, but his treatment kept him from joining Pureval. Instead, Pureval chatted via a FaceTime call with William, who personally thanked him for his support.



William, along with representatives from Hoxworth and Make-A-Wish® Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, marched in Cincinnati's BLINK parade with William as their parade grand marshal.

HOXWORTH Blood Drives

Hoxworth held 598 total blood drives that were hosted by local organizations across the Tri-State to collect 28,321 units of blood and platelets. Of the 598 total blood drives, 35 were honorary blood drives that memorialize or support a recipient or an organization.

From churches and businesses to high schools and colleges, donors selflessly gave of themselves to assist in **Saving Lives Close To Home.**

TOP 20 Honorary Blood Drives

Beth Papin	362
Super Cohen	183
Storm Bratchett	176
Jessica's Blood Drive	94
Super Noah's Squad (Noah Mattingly)	83
Pray, Hope Believe Foundation	81
Ben Strong Giveback	75
Sophia Kappen Memorial	74
Brynn's Birthday.....	53
Tim Erhart Jr.	52
Super Ollie's Sidekicks	48
Kaitlyn Erskine & Patty Young	45
Nicholas R. Cordrey Foundation	39
Al Neyer	37
Braden the Brave	18
Paul Blau Blood Drive	16
Reco Gunnels, David Valines Memorial and Supporting Markeyah Lewis.....	14
Kaylin Hall	10

To get started on hosting a blood drive in your community, visit hoxworth.org/donors/host



Hoxworth held nine specialty blood drives in 2022, collecting a total of 1,884 units with 176 first-time blood donors joining our lifesaving mission.

At the Cincinnati Bengals Blood Drive at Paycor Stadium in May 2022, pictured above, donors received a Bengals T-shirt and got to hang out with mascots Who Dey and Buddy the Blood Drop.

SPECIALTY BLOOD DRIVES

Blood Drive Partner | Units Collected | First-Time Donors

- **4th Annual Cincinnati Favorites | 1,108 | 121**
Summer-long event, 13 partners, 32 drives
- **Cincinnati Art Museum | 37 | 5**
Partnership with Cincinnati Art Museum, Playhouse in the Park, Taft Museum of Art
- **Cincinnati Bengals Blood Drive | 113 | 20**
Paycor Stadium with FREE Bengals T-shirt
- **Cincinnati Reds Blood Drive | 4,065 | 112**
Cincinnati Reds Pack Jackets Promotion at NDCs
- **Cincinnati MINI Blood Drive | 38 | 8**
Donors received a FREE car wash
- **FCC Blood Drive | 4,057 | 119**
All For Cincy T-shirts at NDCs and TQL Stadium
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Blood Drive | 15 | 1**
Held at Hoxworth's Neighborhood Donor Centers
- **Music Hall Blood Drives | 119 | 15**
Seven participating local arts organizations
- **Queen City Blood Drive | 280 | 12**
Partner with Cincinnati Cyclones
- **YMCA Blood Drives | 212 | 2**
Several blood drives throughout the Tri-State



RENOVATED APHERESIS CENTER: Collecting for Cellular Therapies

2022 Apheresis Procedure Totals

Cellular Therapy Procedures

- Hematopoietic Stem Cells 238
- Mononuclear Cells 121

Therapeutic Procedures

- Therapeutic Plasma Exchange (plasma replacement) 349
- Thrombocytapheresis (platelet removal) 1
- Leukocytapheresis (white blood cell removal or granulocyte collection) 42
- Extracorporeal photopheresis (white blood cell treatment) 244
- Red blood cell exchange (red blood cell replacement) 264

In the back of Hoxworth Blood Center's central location on the fourth floor is an entirely different blood donation space.

Hoxworth's Apheresis Center collects specialized white blood cells from donors in the Tri-State and around the country, for use in stem cell transplantation, therapeutic infusions, and emerging cellular therapies.

Hoxworth celebrated the grand opening of this new space with light refreshments and a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 7, 2022. The newly renovated Apheresis Center features four expansive pods to accommodate increased collections while improving the comfort and care of these unique donors.

Hoxworth's Apheresis team is available seven days a week, working at this fixed site, and at many local hospital inpatient and outpatient sites in their mobile operation footprint.

The most common process at Hoxworth's Apheresis Center is the collection of stem cells from healthy donors. Hoxworth partners with Be The Match, an organization operated by The National Marrow Donor Program that manages the most diverse marrow registry in the world. People from all over the country can be matched as stem cell and lymphocyte donors for patients throughout the world. Once a donor is identified and ready to donate, they will be directed to our renovated center for a four to eight-hour collection.

Afterward, Hoxworth's Cellular Therapy team packages these precious stem cells for transport to a designated patient's hospital for transplant.

In 2022, Hoxworth collected more than 75 products from donors for the National Marrow Donor Program for patients across the world, and they expect to continue to expand these numbers. "We look forward to helping more patients across the globe as our apheresis collection capacity grows," said Caroline Alquist, MD, PhD, medical director of the Apheresis program.

The Hoxworth Apheresis Center also collects granulocytes. "These (white blood cells) are for patients who have undergone chemotherapy and have no white blood cells of their own to fight off infections," said Krystal Weidner, RN, manager of Hoxworth's Apheresis Department. The process to obtain granulocytes begins when a local hospital

"These donors are giving so much to get to this point, blood work, injections, physicals, so we wanted to provide a comfortable environment for them as they spend up to eight hours donating stem cells to someone they've never met."

**— Krystal Weidner, RN
Manager, Hoxworth Apheresis Dept.**

contacts Hoxworth about a specific patient's need for this product. Once we receive the call, Weidner said, Hoxworth's recruitment team identifies and contacts potential blood type-matched donors. Willing individuals then take medication to stimulate increased peripheral blood granulocyte counts then undergo a three-hour donation

process. The donated granulocytes are then whisked to the patient's bedside and quickly infused, as these precious white cells expire within 24 hours of collection. Most often they are transfused to immunocompromised pediatric patients at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. "When you get the call for white cells, it's going to be collected and transfused into a patient that same day. Donors know it's going directly to the patient in need," Weidner said.

Additionally, the Apheresis Center collects materials for established and emerging immunotherapy indications, as well as research components (whole blood, red blood cells, platelets, and plasma). Hoxworth's newly renovated Apheresis Center will better accommodate all of these special collections and make donors feel comfortable while spending their time with our team, Weidner said.

Hoxworth assists in saving sight of international soccer star

International soccer star Omar Elabdellaoui is back on the field after nearly losing his sight from a backyard firework explosion, thanks to the help of Hoxworth Blood Center's Transplantation Immunology Division (TID) and other local medical teams.

The problem, according to Dr. Jeffery Nerad of the Cincinnati Eye Institute, was that the chemical injury damaged the part of Elabdellaoui's eye responsible for sight, as well as his eyelid and surrounding area. Cincinnati Eye Institute doctors Edward Holland (pictured with Omar) and Jeffery Nerad used a limbal stem cell transplant to regenerate the corneal surface. Elabdellaoui returned to the soccer field with near-perfect vision.

Hoxworth's TID played a significant role in Elabdellaoui's vision restoration. For transplants like Elabdellaoui's, Hoxworth often performs Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) typing, HLA antibody studies and a consultative assessment known as virtual crossmatch on patients and their donors. This work, according to Caroline Alquist, MD, PhD, medical director of Hoxworth's TID program, "helps ensure that the body won't reject the graft."

The TID lab supports more than 1,500 solid organ and stem cell transplant patients annually, while also providing a variety of disease-association, transfusion support, and research testing.



Mission Moments

LIFESAVING Stories That Make Us Smile

FIRST-TIME DONOR

In all her 95 years, Dorothy Ringleman never donated blood until April 15, 2022, when she rolled up a sleeve at our Hoxworth Fort Mitchell location because she wanted to make a difference.

Ringleman, along with 8,748 new donors, joined our lifesaving mission and made an impact in our community in 2022.



TEAM SUPER COHEN

Hoxworth hosted a virtual blood drive in April 2022, in honor of nine-year-old Cohen Bramlee.

Cohen is the first-ever person discovered with his still unnamed immune system disease, said his mother, Carrie. "He has intestinal failure, which causes him to be unable to eat food and requires intravenous nutrition," she said. "He also has a genetic bleeding disorder which makes it difficult for his blood to clot."

Dubbed Team Super Cohen in recognition of the immense bravery he's shown in the face of daunting medical challenges, the drive surpassed a goal of 50 donors to collect 303 units from 166 donors.

Team Super Cohen T-shirts were given to donors as a special token of appreciation. Cohen's family rolled up their sleeves to donate and give back to those who have donated for Cohen. Cohen's mother Carrie and brother T.C., donated at Hoxworth Central.

In addition, employees at Mercy Health, the workplace of his father, Todd Bramlee, MD, showed their support with donations.

Cohen's Beads of Courage

"When you zoom in, you can see the true impact blood donors have made on Cohen's life. Each red bead represents the generosity of a person who was willing to take the time to donate lifesaving blood to my child; that incredible gift will never be lost on our family."

— Carrie Bramlee, Cohen's mom



Top: Cohen Bramlee and his brother T.C. Bottom: Mother Carrie Bramlee and T.C. donating at Hoxworth Central.



Hoxworth recruiter Sharon Hardy wears the T-shirt donors received from the Team Super Cohen blood drive. "Meeting people like Carrie and her family is one of the reasons I love working at Hoxworth, that and making a difference helping to save lives," Hardy said.

Cohen's Beads of Courage, a symbol of what he has endured with this illness. Each color represents a specific treatment, procedure, hospital night stay or occurrence during his illness. Yellow represents hospital stays, red symbolizes blood transfusions received.

TINY BUT MIGHTY!

Hoxworth's Apheresis team had a collection first: extracting stem cells from the tiniest of donors, a two-month-old baby weighing 12.5 pounds. The baby became a celebrity for having been the smallest patient that the Hoxworth team ever performed an apheresis collection procedure on.

"In a way, that could have made us nervous to know, but they made it clear that they put so much time and energy into preparing specifically for him and assuring us that he has the best care possible during the process. We felt confident he was in great hands - we actually thought it was pretty hilarious that they kept referring to him as "famous" and "the king," the family said.



THINKING OF OLLIE

Since birth, Ollie Rodriguez has been battling a rare, unnamed disease that effects every system in his body. Recently the inflammation caused by his disease started a chain reaction that led his body to destroy and consume his blood and clotting factors as fast as the medical team was transfusing it.

Doctors used a plasma drip until his Factor 5 reached a safe

level; and they used platelet transfusions to help his immune system. The family moved to Cincinnati to be near medical expertise as Ollie has the same disease as

Cohen Bramlee. Inspired by the Bramlees, the Rodriguez family also hosted a blood drive, Super Ollie's Sidekicks, collecting 48 units in June 2022.

"We are forever indebted and thankful for the generosity of volunteer donors that make it possible for Ollie, and other patients like him, to live."

— Krystle Rodriguez, Ollie's mom



Impactful PROMOTIONS



#DonateToDrive



Donor Barbara Hallinan was on deck to save lives when she donated platelets to win Hoxworth's Pitching for Platelets spring promotion. For donors who rolled up a sleeve to donate platelets between April 1 and May 30 at Hoxworth's Neighborhood Donor Centers, each donation earned them a chance to throw out the first pitch.

Hallinan tossed out the first pitch to her daughter as catcher at the June 7, 2022, Cincinnati Reds vs. Arizona Diamondbacks game at Great American Ballpark.

Hallinan, a five-gallon A+ platelet donor, donated four times during the Pitching for Platelets promotion to win the first-pitch toss, a custom jersey and tickets for her family to attend the game.



PITCHING FOR PLATELETS



Blood and platelet donors rolled up a sleeve this summer for a chance to win a custom MINI Cooper

Vroom, Vroom! Motoring around the Tri-State got a little racy for donor David Reece. He's the winner of the Hoxworth and Cincinnati MINI #DonateToDrive 2022 promotion that awarded one out of about 32,000 donors with a custom MINI Cooper for donating blood or platelets between June 1 and September 16.

As a new donor and an ICU nurse at UC Health, Reece understands the importance of donating blood and platelets and plans to continue his lifesaving journey to give back to our community. Reece was shocked, surprised and thankful to hear of the news from Hoxworth's Customer Experience Manager, Lisa Cowden.

"What, really?" Reece responded when first told the news over the phone. "I wasn't expecting this kind of call. Best call of my life. I'm so thankful," he said.

Reece made his third lifesaving donation on November 18 at Hoxworth's North location, where Hoxworth and Cincinnati MINI officials were on site to celebrate his win.



1,517 new donors participated in the #DonateToDrive promotion.

Platelet donors rolled up a sleeve this spring for a chance to toss out the Reds first pitch



Hoxworth

in the Community



The Cincinnati Bengals celebrated the start of Hispanic Heritage Month by recognizing Hoxworth CEO José Cancelas, MD, PhD, as the recipient of the team's Hispanic Heritage Award. The award was presented by LifeCenter, during the regular-season opener Sunday at Paycor Stadium.

Cancelas, a prominent figure in the Cincinnati medical community, is a professor and director/chairman of Hoxworth and director of the translational core laboratories of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

He is renowned for his contributions towards raising awareness for blood, tissue and organ donation throughout the region. He is a member of the US National Institutes of Health Scientific Review Committee and the Board of LifeCenter Organization for the Procurement of Organs in Southwestern Ohio, among others.



Hoxworth's Chief Medical Officer, David Oh, MD, takes you inside the world of blood banking with his *In The Know With Dr. Oh* podcast that covers all aspects of blood donation and transfusion medicine.

Tune in and learn about new advancements in the field of blood banking, get answers to frequently-asked questions, and uncover the truths behind the most common myths about blood donation.

Dr. Oh and featured guest (pictured above), Sanjay Shewakramani, MD, emergency medicine doctor at UC Health, and Hoxworth's Public Information Officer Jackie Marschall chat about the use of blood in trauma care.

To listen to the podcast, visit hoxworth.org/podcast



Hoxworth's many volunteers have a presence at many community events: from Burger Week, Bengals Nation and Everything Cincy Bengals PreFest to Queen Bee Half Marathon and Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Light the Night. The amount of time our volunteers represent Hoxworth is unmatched.



Hoxworth Blood Center celebrated World Blood Donor Day June 14 on Fountain Square to raise awareness on the importance of blood donation in our community and to thank all blood donors for their lifesaving donations.

As part of the festivities, Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval gave Hoxworth a proclamation to pay tribute to Hoxworth as the steward of the region's blood supply. Hoxworth supports and saves lives of patients at more than 30 local hospitals. Following the Mayor's proclamation, Hoxworth received a Transit Advertising Award from Adspose, the company that oversees Metro bus advertising.

Hoxworth staff also passed out Busken Bakery cookies and educational materials on blood donation to bring greater awareness to the ongoing need for blood and platelet donors, as well as the need for diversity in the local blood supply.

Hoxworth Fundraising (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)

Thank you to the many donors who contributed to Hoxworth's fundraising efforts to purchase a new bloodmobile.

\$200,608 — Contributions
 \$ 22,346 — Golf fundraiser
 \$222,954 — **Total raised**



To learn more about ways to support Hoxworth, visit hoxworth.org/about/financialgifts

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