

Hoxworth

BLOOD CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI 



SAVING LIVES
Close To Home
Since 1938

Community Report | 2021

Saving Lives Close To Home

Patient Care • Research • Education

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.



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 83-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.

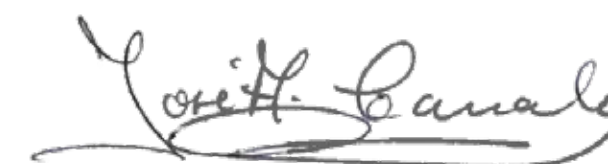
Dr. Cancelas remains active in Hoxworth research as co-director, with a focus on executing clinical trials.

Thank you. Yes, thank you for your support and dedication to saving lives close to home over the past year. I am beginning my letter with words of thanks because without the loyal blood donors, community members, volunteers, and Hoxworth team members; we would not be able to achieve our mission. The Hoxworth Blood Center mission remains 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. I thank you immensely for partnering with us to meet these needs.

The past year brought about many challenges – some expected but most unexpected in relation to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our organization was not immune to general issues in supply chain delays and staffing concerns, resulting in blood scarcity. I am proud to report that we have surpassed all previous efforts and collected more than 103,000 blood products. Think of all the patients in need whose lives have been saved because of your efforts. This achievement is remarkable, but so is the need for blood products. The demand for blood products has increased dramatically over the past three years, and we – with your help, have been able to grow our collections and meet the needs of our local hospitals.

As I reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future, I feel assured that the Hoxworth team can weather any storm along with its many partners. Together we will continue to be successful in saving lives close to home through blood collection and distribution, research and education.

With sincere gratitude,



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.

Founded by Dr. Paul I. Hoxworth in 1938, Hoxworth Blood Center 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



• Christopher Nare MS, MT (AMT)
Associate Director
Chief Operating Officer
Chief Financial Officer



• David Oh MD
Division Director
Clinical Services
Chief Medical Officer



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



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



Rufan Li MS, MBA
Division Director
Chief Marketing Officer



Alecia Lipton MHA
Division Director
Public Relations

Community Advisory Board

- Richard Aft**, PhD, Philanthropic Leadership
- Nicholas Apanius**, Messer Construction Co.
- Dawn Berryman**, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- John Byczkowski**, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati
- Bernie Calonge**, Marsh
- Chris Carle**, 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
- Carla Howard**, Kelly Youth Services
- Myron Hughes**, BlueRose Supply
- Patrick Kowalski**, University of Cincinnati

- Michael Losos**, MD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- Barry Massa**, LifeCenter Organ Donor Network
- Neha Matta**, JD, The Health Collaborative
- Joe Michels**, Michels Construction
- Valerie Miller**, DXC Technology
- Melba R. Moore**, PhD, MS, CPHA, Cincinnati Health Dept.
- Matt Morgan**, Grant County School District
- Kathrine Nero**, Cincinnati Enquirer
- Colleen O'Toole**, PhD, The Health Collaborative
- Jamie Rausch**, GE Aviation
- Ronald A. Sacher**, MD, Hoxworth Blood Center (Emeritus)
- Mark S. Schlachter**, Heavy Metal Mark
- Robert J. Sinkhorn**, Affect Partners LLC
- Paul Turnpaugh**, General Electric
- Jill Waters**, St. Elizabeth Dearborn Hospital
- Karen Schuster Webb**, Union Institute & University

HOXWORTH PHILANTHROPY



A heartfelt thank you to our financial donors who have made contributions to our annual fundraising initiatives or in memory of a loved one.

Fundraising Initiatives

The fundraising goal for 2021 continued to focus on the purchase of a new bloodmobile. With community assistance, Hoxworth is fortunate to have financial support to further our lifesaving mission.

Hoxworth raised \$162,000 to support our bloodmobile goal this year, with \$38,315 from the annual Hoxworth golf outing and \$100,000 from The Luther Charitable Foundation, as well as from individual donors.

Hoxworth is part of the University of Cincinnati, but does not receive state funding for its operations.

To learn more about ways to support Hoxworth, scan the QR code or visit hoxworth.org/about/financialgifts



Financial Donors: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

- Claire F. Ackemyer
- Dick and Mary Lu Aft
- Dr. Caroline R. Alquist
- Judith Ashton
- Mr. & Mrs. Timothy R. Beckman
- Bernadette G. Bennison
- Mr. & Mrs. Randy L. Berryman
- Virginia S. Bickers
- Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Blanton
- Mr. & Mrs. John J. Blau
- Blood Bank Computer Systems, Inc.
- Blood Centers of America, Inc.
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Blum, Jr.
- Sara Bolton
- Phyllis G. Bossin
- Paul A. Brailey
- Mr. & Mrs. Don G. Brosz
- Joanna R. Brummer
- Mrs. Kristine Bruns
- Dr. Terri & Mr. John Byczkowski
- Amanda Callahan-Smith
- Mr. & Mrs. Bernardo Calonge
- Ms. Elizabeth Campe
- Drs. Jose Cancelas & Maria Calvo
- Chris G. Carle
- Sarah M. Catton
- Cincinnati Financial Corporation
- Cincinnati Insurance Company
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark
- David C. Clarke
- Sandra Collins
- Monroe E. Conner
- Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Cornejo
- Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Crank
- Jordan D. Curtis
- James Davis
- Debra-Kuempel
- Melissa Deller

- Dr. and Mrs. Philip M. Diller
- Hollis Dold
- Heidi Dougherty
- Duke Energy Ohio And Kentucky
- Duke Energy Corporation
- Paul A. Evans
- Beth Eversole
- Danielle M. Falconer
- Randy Ficke
- Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund
- Fidelity Investments
- Jenine M. Fields
- Dr. and Mrs. Andrew T. Filak, Jr.
- Jennifer L. Finn
- Mr. and Mrs. Tim Flick
- Julianne S. Ford
- Jouetta Foy
- Emily J. Freuck
- Rhonda Friedland
- Kathleen Fryman
- Larry Garcia
- Annie Gibson
- Judith M. Gonzalez
- Catherine Goodman
- Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Gray
- Mr. and Mrs. Kerry C. Green
- C. Dean Gregory
- H.B., E.W., and F.R. Luther Foundation
- Ellen Haake
- Tina Haas
- Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Habel
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Hall, Jr.
- Sheryl K. Heeb
- Mark Heekin
- Mandy Heid
- Daria C. Heyenbruch

- Lori E. Hicks
- Melissa Hill
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Hoelker
- Linda Hudson
- Mr. and Mrs. Myron L. Hughes
- Chereasa R. Hunter
- Raquel Huseman
- Ideal Supplies, Inc.
- Pamela F. Inglish
- Mr. and Mrs. T. Scott Inscho
- David G. Irwin
- Lois A. Jacobs
- Mr. and Mrs. Kyle D. Jenkins
- Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jones
- David C. Kamensky
- Christine R. Ketchem
- Mary Kilburg
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Benjamin King
- Melissa M. Knight
- Matthew G. Kray
- Kroger Company
- Mr. and Mrs. Timothy M. Kron
- Sharon Kuchma
- Amanda Larbes
- Dr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Leemhuis
- Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Leugers
- Allison M. Leuthold
- Rufan Li
- Life Center Donor Network
- Mr. Mark and Mrs. Alecia Lipton
- Dr. Michael Losos
- Dr. Carolyn Lutzko
- Carol A. MacGregor
- Mr. and Mrs. Paul T. Maciulewicz
- Chenelle C. Martin
- Mr. and Mrs. Barry Massa
- Katie T. Maurer
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Mayhaus

- Scott McCrate
- Mary Ann Menke
- Benjamin J. Merk
- Kristan D. Metz
- Miriam R. Michael
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Michels
- Amy L. Miley
- Rachel Mirrow
- Kimberly D. Molumby
- Dr. Melba Moore
- Matt Morgan
- Trisha A. Mount
- Christopher M. Nare
- Navigate Forward
- Troy and Michele Neat
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Nola
- Jennifer Nolte
- Diana L. Nordling
- O.N.I. Advertising, Inc.
- Lindsey E. O'Bannion
- Jennifer E. O'Connor
- Dr. and Mrs. David Oh
- Terrence P. Ohnmeis
- Drs. John T. Spence and Colleen K. O'Toole
- Deborah L. Owsley
- Foster Parnell
- Destinie N. Perkins
- Pfizer, Inc.
- Elizabeth A. Portwood
- Presbyterian Church of Wyoming
- Kristina Prus
- Jamie Rausch
- William Reid
- Lisa M. Renner
- Deborah Rivera
- Linda J. Rixner
- Patrick Rumpel

- Joellen Russell
- Dr. and Mrs. Ronald A. Sacher
- Maria L. Schade
- Rosemary and Mark Schlachter
- Robert Sinkhorn
- Lisa Sladeck
- Allison Slemmons
- Joanne M. Smith
- Kara Smith
- Mary C. Staebler
- Mr. and Mrs. Duane Statzer
- Lauren Stevens
- Robin J. Stickler
- Rebecca L. Stone
- Desmond D. Taylor
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey T. Taylor
- The Linda and David Myers Fund
- Mr. Robert D. Thompson, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Timothy L. Timmel
- L. Trafficanti
- Joyce R. Tubbs
- Beverly A. Tumpa
- Paul Turnpaugh
- Mr. and Mrs. John Van Cleave
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Ventre
- Leigh Ann Virzi
- Gary Vosick
- Walters and Mason Retail, Inc.
- Mr. and Mrs. Timothy W. Waters
- Krystol Weidner
- SSgt Suzanne Willard
- Linda C. Wilson
- Janie F. F. Wittenberg
- Cynthia M. Wood
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey A. Work
- Danielle M. Young

SAVING LIVES

It's In Our Blood

TOP 10 List of LIFESAVERS

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

Our Top 10 community blood drive partners collected a total of 15,868 units of blood.

2021 Blood Collections

Hospital Partners	
1. Cincinnati Children's Hospital	2,445
2. TriHealth	1,410
3. St. Elizabeth Healthcare	1,314
4. UC Health	609
5. Mercy Health	464
6. Margaret Mary Health	372
7. Cincinnati VA Medical Center	297
8. Christ Hospital	278
9. Highland District Hospital	246
10. Adams County Regional Medical Center	120

Saving Lives Close To HOME LIFESAIVING IMPACT **7,555 Units**

High School Partners	
1. Rising Sun High School	198
2. William Henry Harrison High School	101
3. Little Miami High School	98
4. Roger Bacon High School	97
5. Moeller High School	90
West Clermont High School	90
6. Milan High School	68
7. Goshen High School	67
8. Cooper High School	61
9. North Adams High School	58
10. St. Xavier High School	54

Saving Lives Close To HOME LIFESAIVING IMPACT **982 Units**

Business Partners	
1. Kroger	1,150
2. Montgomery Inn Blood Drives	418
3. Busken Bakery	242
4. MedPace	240
Downtown Mobile Blood Drive	240
5. Graeter's Ice Cream	200
6. Frisch's Big Boy	199
7. Skyline Chili	191
8. Crestview Hills Town Center	177
9. LaRosa's	171
10. Western & Southern	156

Saving Lives Close To HOME LIFESAIVING IMPACT **3,384 Units**

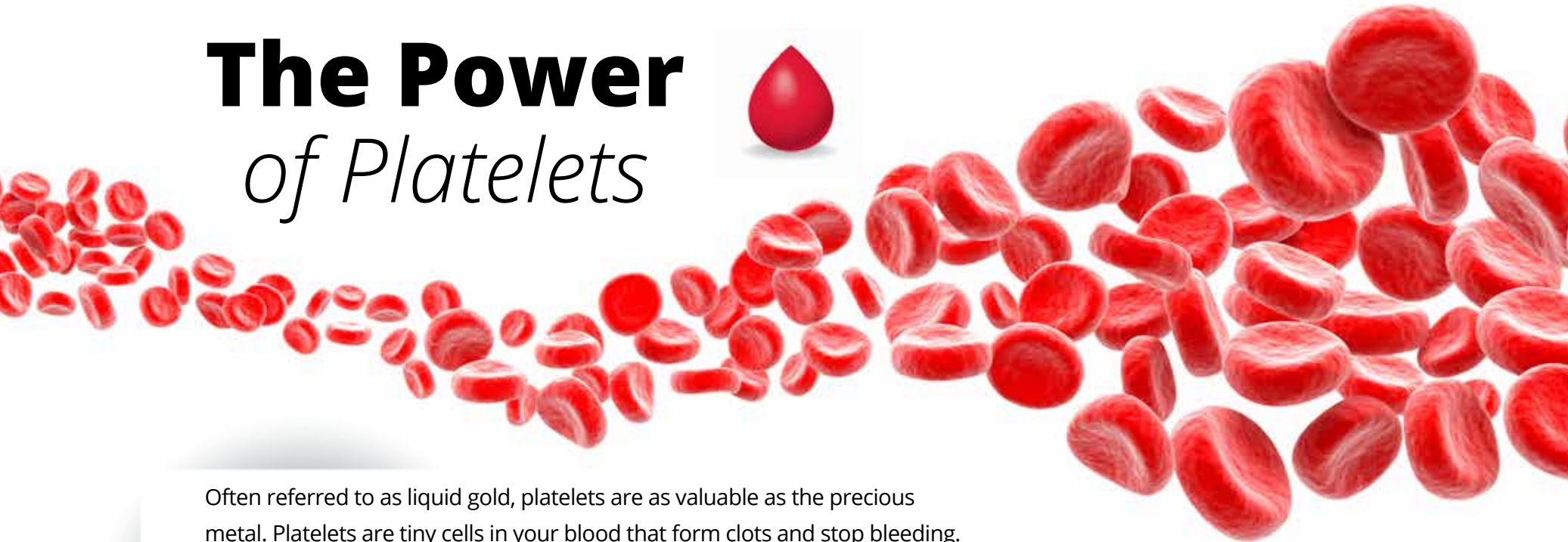
Faith Partners	
1. Crossroads Church	305
2. Knights of Columbus, Bright	280
3. Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Healthy	208
4. St. Columban Catholic Church	181
5. Sardinia Church of Christ	139
6. St. Maximilian Kolbe	135
7. St. Anthony Padua	128
8. Lakeside Christian Church	125
9. St. John the Evangelist	109
10. Main Street Baptist	104

Saving Lives Close To HOME LIFESAIVING IMPACT **1,714 Units**

College Partners	
1. University of Cincinnati	1,378
2. Xavier University	334
3. Northern Kentucky University	182
4. Mount St. Joseph University	111
5. God's Bible School & College	41
6. Ross Medical	40
7. Christ College of Nursing	39
8. Thomas More University	33
Beckfield College	33
9. Ivy Tech College	24
10. Gateway Community	18

Saving Lives Close To HOME LIFESAIVING IMPACT **2,233 Units**

The Power of Platelets



Often referred to as liquid gold, platelets are as valuable as the precious metal. Platelets are tiny cells in your blood that form clots and stop bleeding.

Platelets are an essential course of treatment for those patients in our community fighting cancer, chronic diseases, and traumatic injuries.

Because of their tremendous lifesaving ability and fragile shelf life of only seven days, the need for platelets is extremely high. Hoxworth needs at least 50 platelet donors each day to meet the needs of patients in area hospitals.

Individuals with A-, A+, AB- and AB+ blood types should consider donating platelets for optimum compatibility with the largest number of recipients.

A platelet donation is an automated procedure in which a machine collects platelets while returning red cells and most of the plasma back to the donor.

To learn more about donating platelets, visit hoxworth.org/donors/eligibility/platelets or scan the QR code.



Donor Steven Francia



Donor Megan Middleton



Donor Ray Atwood

Platelet Challenge

Many Hoxworth donors rose to a donation challenge over the summer. Known as the "Go For The Gold! — Platelet Olympics Challenge," donors had to roll up a sleeve and donate platelets four times between July and September in 2021 to qualify.

More than 290 donors completed the lifesaving challenge of donating four times in 10 weeks. To commemorate the accomplishment, donors earned an exclusive "gold medal" and a backpack cooler.



Donor Joanne Biedinger



Donor Mark Curry



Donor David Krusling

Donation Milestones

Devoted Donors



Donor Don Wesley



Donor Martin Krallman



Donor, Volunteer Dick Manoukian



Sister Damien Hinderer

Lifetime Achievement: Outstanding Contributions in Saving Lives Close To Home

Celebrating milestone blood donations is nothing new at Hoxworth Blood Center. With each gallon milestone, Hoxworth punctuates the noteworthy achievement with a gallon donor pin to signify an ongoing commitment to blood donation in our community.

Eight blood donations equals one gallon, so to achieve 100 gallons over a lifetime deserves special recognition. In 2021, Hoxworth celebrated donor Don Wesley and his achievement of donating 100 gallons. Wesley received a 100-gallon pin, certificate and special staff recognition for going above and beyond in Saving Lives Close to Home.

For Don Wesley, those 100 gallons equate to 636 lifetime donations since 1967. His commitment was in response to an emergency call to help wounded soldiers from the Vietnam War. Today, his selfless act now includes family members as loyal Hoxworth donors.

Hoxworth North staff members (top right photo, left to right) Aerickah Brock, Lorie Gillis and Joan Schumacher also celebrated another milestone in 2021, by surprising blood donor Martin Krallman with Graeter's ice cream for his 100th blood donation!

OUR DONORS Save Lives



Despite the ups and downs of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, donors in the Tri-State stepped up to help save lives. 33,063 donors visited our Neighborhood Donor Centers (NDCs) in 2021.

Blood donor Dana Schmoyer shows off Hoxworth's most popular promotion of 2021 — the famed Cicada T-shirt, a celebration of saving lives while fending off the invasion of the 17-year Cicada brood.

About 4,167 donors participated in the promotion, with 92 new donors supporting the mission.

The need for donors never ends. Our NDC donors and blood drive hosts and participants, are critical components to Hoxworth's success. Please consider donating blood at your local Hoxworth Neighborhood Donor Center or area blood drive. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (513) 451-0910 or visit us on the web at hoxworth.org.

Milestone Gallon Donors



Noteworthy Recognition

Hoxworth awarded 11,181 gallon pins to donors in 2021. We salute them all, with special recognition given to those donors at the top of the lifetime achievement list. They are:

- Donald Wesley**
Donated 102 gallons; 100 gallon pin
- Dennis Schoeny**
Donated 91 gallons; 90 gallon pin
- Sister Damien Hinderer**
Donated 83 gallons; 80 gallon pin
- Thomas Maly**
Donated 77 gallons; 75 gallon pin
- Stephen McBride**
Donated 67 gallons; 65 gallon pin
- *Richard Manoukian**
Donated 65 gallons; 65 gallon pin
*Also a Hoxworth volunteer
- Timothy Young**
Donated 64 gallons; 60 gallon pin
- Mark Meckes**
Donated 62 gallons; 60 gallon pin
- Timothy Helmick**
Donated 62 gallons; 60 gallon pin

Note: After reaching 50 gallons, pins are sent out for every five gallons donated, instead of every gallon.

“Giving is not just about making a donation, it’s about **making a difference.**” Kathy Calvin



Comic Expo blood drive at the Duke Energy Convention Center



Montgomery Inn Boathouse blood drive, a part of the Cincinnati Favorites Summer Blood Drive Tour, registered 385 donors and collected 311 units, with 30 first-time donors and 933 potential lives saved.



First-time donor Lashon Taylor proudly shows off her bandage at the Montgomery Inn blood drive.

Blood Drives SAVE LIVES

Hoxworth held 1,133 blood drives in 2021.

That's a lot of moving parts: manpower, equipment, promotional giveaways and, last but not least, donors.

Overall, 34,159 registered to donate blood at mobile drives across the Tri-State to collect 28,321 units of blood and platelets, including 6,844 of first-time donors, 35 honorary (memorial drives) and 13 specialty drives.

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

34 blood drives were hosted by friends and families in honor of a loved one as a way to pay the act of blood donation forward to those in need. The top 20 drives for units collected are:

Storm Bratchett	165
I'll Be There for You	89
Ben Strong Giveback	79
Bill Houston's Pay it Forward	76
Jessica's Birthday/Giveback Blood Drive	76
The Judy Morand Memorial	70
Brynn's Birthday Blood Drive	62
Sophia Kappen	60
The Pray~Hope~Believe Foundation	53
Team Chuck	52
Gattermeyer Family Giveback	51
Maya Collins Memorial Blood Drive	49
Team Super Cohen	46
Rylee Bostwick	46
Super Noah's Squad Giveback	45
Sammie's Giveback	44
Local 392 Plumbers, Pipefitters, MES	35
Team Eli	34
Graydon 150 th Anniversary	33
Honoring Noah Stepaniak's Survival	31

Specialty Blood Drives with Fun Promotions



Brew Tour Blood Drive

Queen City Blood Drive

Blood Drive Partner | Units Collected | New Donors

- **3rd Annual Cincy Favorites** | 1,862 | 160
Summer-long event, 13 partners, 67 drives
- **Black & Minority Owned Business Blood Drives** | 111 | 22
T-shirt designed by BlaCk OWned™ retail shop
- **Brew Tour Blood Drive** | 340 | 51
Partnered with 14 breweries
- **Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library Drives** | 656 | 86
24 library branches in seven counties
- **Cincinnati Art Museum Blood Drive** | 62 | 2
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Taft Museum of Art
- **Cincinnati Bengals Blood Drive** | 4,564 | 116
Weeklong drive at Neighborhood Donor Centers
- **Cincinnati Comic Expo** | 110 | 52
Three-day event at Duke Energy Convention Center
- **Cincinnati Reds Blood Drive** | 4,212 | 116
Reds mascot Mr. Red visited Hoxworth Anderson
- **FCC Blood Drive** | 70 | 11
Opened new TQL Stadium with a blood drive
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Blood Drive** | 69 | 17
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
- **Music Hall Blood Drives** | 139 | 13
Seven arts organizations: Winner 2021 America's Blood Centers Outstanding Blood Drive of the Year
- **Queen City Blood Drive** | 375 | 29
Partner with Cincinnati Cyclones
- **YMCA Blood Drives** | 266 | 41
18 blood drives throughout the Tri-State

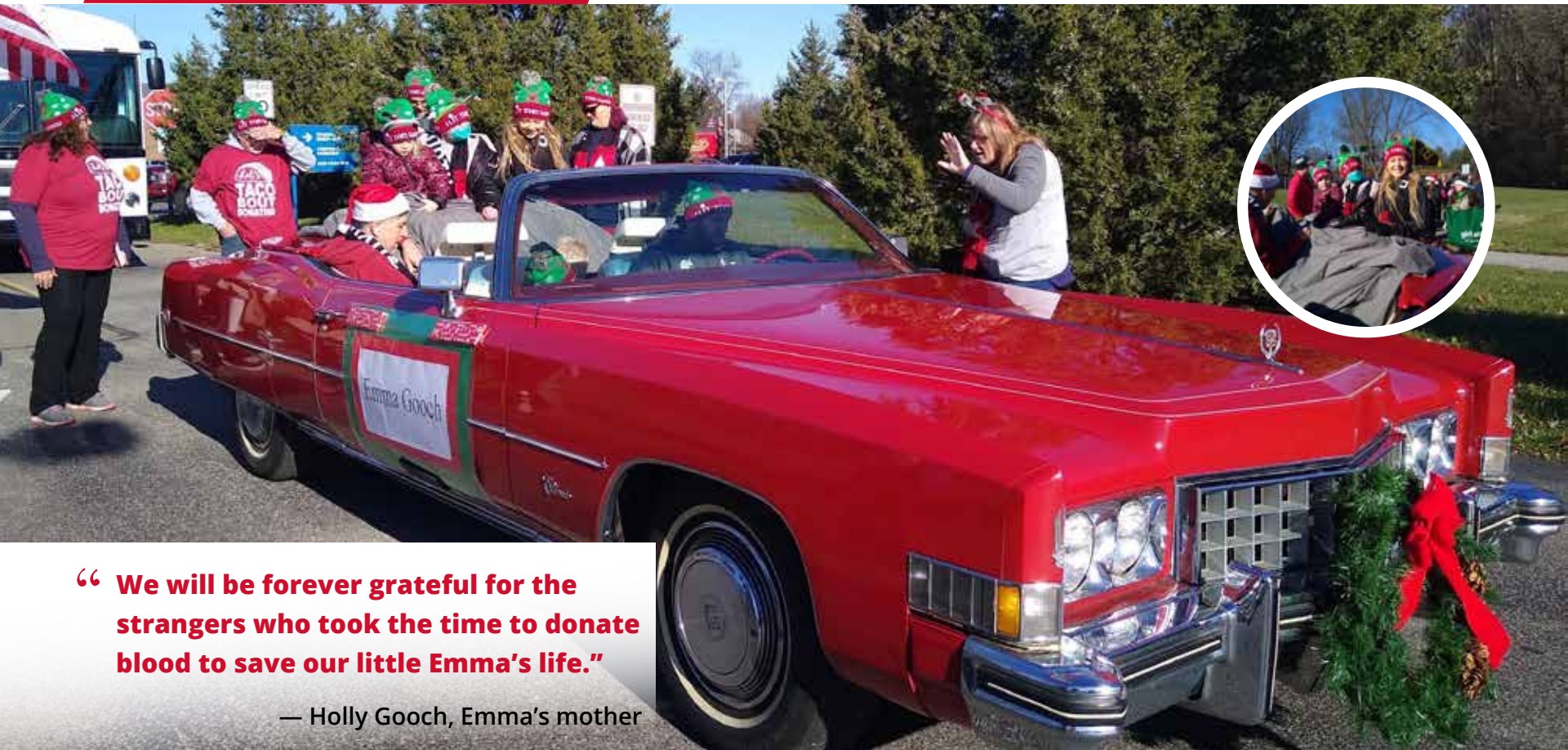


To get started on hosting a blood drive in your community, visit hoxworth.org/host-blood-drive



Mission Moments

Lifesaving Stories That Make Us Smile



“ We will be forever grateful for the strangers who took the time to donate blood to save our little Emma’s life.”

— Holly Gooch, Emma’s mother

Mission Moment. The phrase is commonly used at Hoxworth Blood Center to denote stories of triumph when the mission of Saving Lives Close To Home connects to the aftermath of lifesaving treatment and the continuation of living life to the fullest. Emma Gooch gave us a Mission Moment and a reason to smile when she was asked to be the 2021 Grand Marshal of the Amelia Christmas parade. The hometown 9-year-old girl who attends Willowville Elementary immediately said yes. Emma was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in March of 2020. She went through four rounds of intense chemotherapy followed by a bone marrow transplant in July 2020. She is currently in remission but is now fighting Graft vs Host Disease (GVHD). GVHD is where her donor cells have started recognizing her organs as foreign, triggering her immune system to start attacking them. Blood transfusions give Emma a fighting chance against cancer, her mother Holly Gooch said. “We will be forever grateful for the strangers who took the time to donate blood to save our little Emma’s life,” she said.



Mission Moment. At age 5, Noah Mattingly was diagnosed with a Wilms tumor in his kidney and lungs. He underwent chemo, radiation and multiple surgeries, with too many transfusions and units of platelets to count. A relapse in 2019 meant more chemotherapy and more transfusions. That’s when Noah’s aunt, Amanda Levinsohn, approached Hoxworth to host the Super Noah’s Squad Giveback Blood Drive to help other patients in need. Noah, now seven years old, is shown wearing his Squad Leader T-shirt at the December drive that collected 29 units of blood and included nine first-time donors to our lifesaving mission.

Mission Moment. Former Cincinnati councilman David Mann tweeted that his wife of 58 years, Betsy, had undergone chemotherapy treatment for cancer at Jewish/Mercy Health in Kenwood. With help from Hoxworth, Betsy’s own stem cells were harvested and returned to her as a stem cell transplant. The stem cells quickly began to reproduce new cancer-free cells that had her up and walking about two miles of hospital floors, thus prompting an early release from the hospital, Mann said.

Mission Moment. Stephanie DeMoss is a local mother of three who survived a rare, aggressive form of cancer thanks to blood donors and the work we do at Hoxworth. DeMoss required more than 55 units of blood and platelets as treatment. While Stephanie was receiving chemotherapy and lifesaving blood transfusions, the hashtag #StephStrong was born as a testament of her will to beat cancer. Now in remission, DeMoss and her family used the hashtag to host the #StephStrong I’ll Be There For You blood drives to help other local patients. “Blood and platelet transfusions saved my life,” she said. The #StephStrong blood drive collected 89 units in 2021.



Mission Moment. Lacey Jones, a veterinary career instructor at the Kokomo Area Career Center in Indiana, traveled to Hoxworth to donate stem cells to a woman she never met. She got the call from Hoxworth and was told she was genetically matched with someone battling myeloid leukemia. Once the donation was complete, Jones crossed her fingers with hope that her stem cells were enough. “I really want nothing more than to hear that she is in remission,” Jones said. “Once it was all over, I just went to my hotel room... to cry and pray and hope because you want nothing more than for your cells to work for the patient.” Countless Hoxworth donors are known as rare donors for their ability to directly donate to a specific patient because of antigens within their blood.

Research & EDUCATION



“If we can understand how specific gene mutations cause disease, we can develop gene-based therapies to treat them.”

— Dr. Carolyn Lutzko, PhD

Director of Research, Hoxworth Blood Center

As a division of the University of Cincinnati, as well as a trusted partner of University of Cincinnati Medical Center and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Hoxworth Blood Center is at the forefront of research to help save lives.

Spearheading the research effort is Dr. Carolyn Lutzko, PhD, who recently accepted the Director of Research position at Hoxworth Blood Center, in addition to her current role as Division Director for Regenerative Medicine.

Dr. Lutzko is an Associate Professor in UC’s College of Medicine, and she is also the Director of the Cell Manipulations Laboratory and Process Development at the Translational Core Laboratories of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

She has a long record of research accomplishments that include more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and National Institute of Health extramural funding.

Dr. Lutzko will be instrumental in leading Hoxworth’s plans to expand its research.

Two Hats, One Mission — Dual Research Roles Harness the Power of Collaboration While Impacting Patient Outcomes

Dr. Carolyn Lutzko’s love of science began in high school and extended to the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, where she developed a deep passion for biology and genetics. A summer job in a laboratory set her on a career path of using research to make an impact on patient health outcomes.

Dr. Lutzko earned her doctorate in laboratory medicine at the University of Toronto and then completed a fellowship at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, California, in the Division of Research Immunology/BMT.

Today, with more than 20 years of experience in the field of regenerative medicine, she’s leading the research in developing cell and gene therapies for cancer and genetic disease at Hoxworth Blood Center and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC).

Dr. Lutzko examines how cells differ in healthy donors and in patients with disease to develop effective therapies.

“This information is so important for us to understand how to optimally use donor cells to treat disease, or even more excitingly – how to modify or correct a patient’s own cells so they can function optimally or even prevent, the disease,” she said.

As part of a collaboration between Hoxworth Blood Center and CCHMC, Dr. Lutzko is leading a research team that uses patient stem cells to study underlying causes of severe congenital neutropenia, a group of rare disorders present from birth and characterized by low levels of neutrophils, a type of white blood cell necessary for fighting infections.

“If we can understand how specific gene mutations cause disease, we can develop gene-based therapies to treat them,” she said of the team that includes Hoxworth Blood Center Director Dr. José Cancelas, MD, PhD, and CCHMC research associates Ramesh Nayak, PhD, and Lisa Trump, iPS Lab Manager. “In addition,” Dr. Lutzko said, “we can test drugs on the patients’ own cells in the lab to identify a drug that could be used to fix their disease, and restore the ability to make neutrophils in the future.”

“The early results from this clinical trial are very promising, including a complete reduction in the need for transfusions, and reduction or elimination of many other disease symptoms,” she said.

To maximize the types of diseases that can be treated with cell and gene therapies, Lutzko and a team of scientists from the National Institutes of Health and around the country developed one of the most comprehensive studies to evaluate stem cell lines (identical stem cells grown in a lab dish) that is now used as a benchmark in safety and potential efficacy for these types of novel therapies.

Her team is involved with investigational therapies for cancers such as Leukemia and Multiple Myeloma, and the development of new therapies to treat genetic lung, gastrointestinal and blood cell disorders. For example, one of the interdisciplinary research teams connects Hoxworth physicians and therapeutic apheresis nurses, stem cell transplant physicians and basic and translational scientists to develop gene therapy clinical trials for sickle cell anemia.

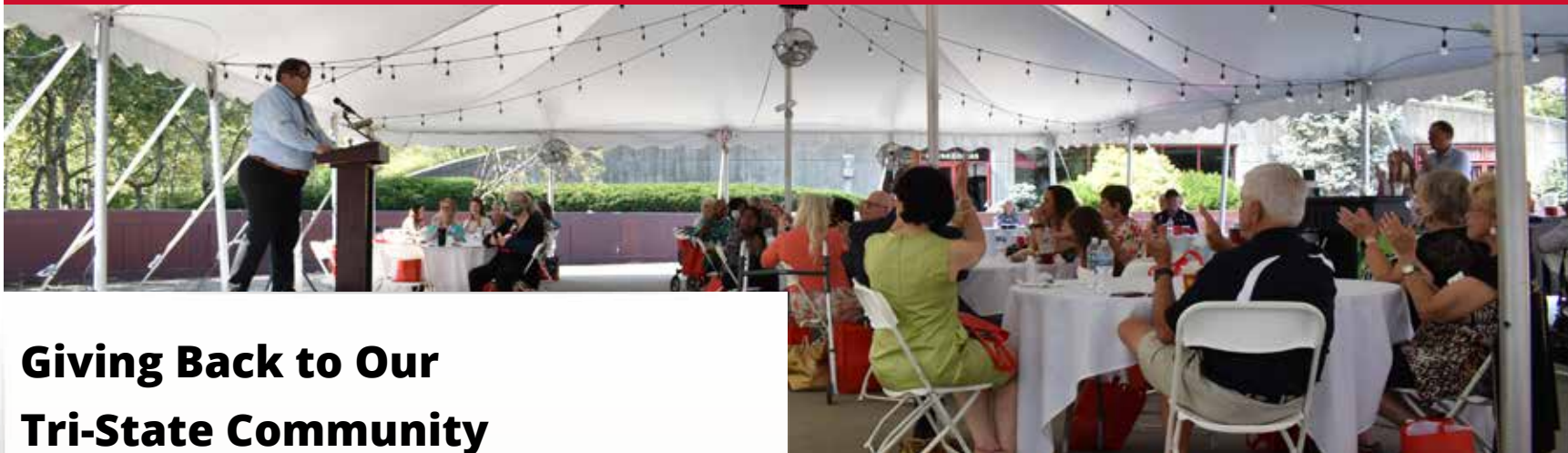
“The early results are very promising, including reductions in disease symptoms and the need for blood transfusions,” she said.

She’s excited to promote the role of women in science as a teacher and mentor for young people entering the field. She offers much gratitude to the many mentors along the way, including Dr. Cancelas, who continues to be “one of my biggest cheerleaders and really keeps teaching and inspiring me to keep learning as the more we understand about a disease, the sooner we can develop a treatment for it.”

“Dr. Lutzko is an excellent scientist whose work has had great impact in the field of cellular therapy,” Dr. Cancelas said. “Her work has helped improve the lives of many patients.”

Dr. Lutzko said she’s proud to be a part of the Hoxworth mission. “I’m so thankful to be playing a role in expanding the numbers and types of therapies we provide to more patients,” she said.

Hoxworth Volunteers — A Reason To Celebrate



Giving Back to Our Tri-State Community

Hoxworth honored its volunteers with a September luncheon to thank them for the many contributions they make to Hoxworth on a daily basis.

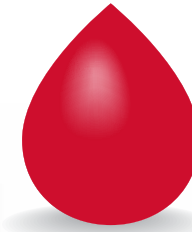
As a vital component to the Hoxworth mission, our volunteers provide much assistance to our blood center to include logistical support and helping hands in our daily operations.

Volunteers help with many critical needs such as picking up blood donations from our Neighborhood Donor Center (NDCs) locations and mobile blood drives to get blood products back to the Component Laboratory for timely processing. Volunteer drivers also deliver blood products to our hospital partners across our entire Tri-State service area.

At our seven NDCs and larger blood drives, volunteers help in café areas, and thank donors for their lifesaving donations, as well as ensure donors feel well prior to their departure. At community events, they assist in sharing the importance of blood donation.

In short, Hoxworth couldn't do without them.

To become a Hoxworth volunteer, call (513) 558-1292 or email james.glahn@uc.edu, Hoxworth's manager of volunteer services.



Thank you to the **125 volunteers** who assisted in Hoxworth's lifesaving mission!

“The amount of support provided by all of Hoxworth Blood Center's volunteers is not only appreciated, it is inspiring!”

— Jamie Glahn, Manager, Hoxworth Volunteer Services



Volunteers in Action



Hoxworth

BLOOD CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI 

3130 Highland Avenue, 4th Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45267
(513) 451-0910



hoxworth.org

Join our Hoxworth team of lifesavers

TOP EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- ▶ FREE UC Tuition (Self + Family*)
- ▶ Health/Life Insurance
- ▶ Paid Time Off
- ▶ Training/Mentoring
- ▶ Advancement Opportunities
- ▶ Retirement Benefit

To view job openings and apply, scan the QR code or visit: hoxworth.org



WAYS TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- ✓ Make a lifesaving blood donation.
- ✓ Volunteer to promote our lifesaving mission.
- ✓ Host a blood drive and save countless lives.
- ✓ Make a financial donation to help fund a new lifesaving donor bus.

[LEARN MORE AT HOXWORTH.ORG](http://HOXWORTH.ORG)

