

***During this Holiday Season, MMH Invites  
YOU to Give the Gift of Life***

Did you know that every three seconds in the United States someone needs blood? The 14 million units of blood collected each year are used every day to treat children with leukemia, autoimmune diseases, cancer patients, accident victims as well as people undergoing routine surgeries. When you watch the hospital shows on television, blood appears to be plentiful. But in reality, the nation's blood supply is marginal and U.S. blood centers must work harder each year to collect enough blood to keep supplies at safe levels.

The Montrose community is lucky to have a real treasure in its donors at the Blood Bank at Montrose Memorial Hospital. Very few hospitals that are the size of MMH, are able to draw donor blood, process it and keep it in the community. The blood given by donors at MMH stays here to help patients at Montrose Memorial Hospital and the San Juan Cancer Center. Through the hard work of Mike Benziger, MD, Kandi Ray, Blood Bank Supervisor, Gerald Schwartz, and Kizzy Roth, MMH has a strong, efficient blood bank that processes over 900 units of blood per year. In addition to the hard work of these individuals, we could never have the success we do without the over 600 active donors from the Montrose community. Some of these generous donors have donated blood every year for over 25 years. We truly appreciate their unselfish gift.

Donating blood is fast and simple. In one hour's time, you can donate one unit of blood that can be separated into four individual components that could help save multiple lives. To be eligible, a donor must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more and be in good health. It's that easy, so why not call the MMH blood bank at 240-7220 and set up an appointment to give blood. If you are already a donor, pat yourself on the back and be proud of the service you provide. Remember, there is still no substitute for human blood.