



**Saving your baby's cord blood may be the most important step you can take to protect your child's future!**

**H**elp assure that your child may be protected in case a life-threatening disease strikes. Preserve your newborn's cord blood — the blood that remains in the umbilical cord and in the placenta after the baby is born. Cord blood is a rich source of life-giving stem cells.

Stem cell transplantations are successfully used in the treatment of leukemia, breast cancer, lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease, aplastic anemia, and various other cancers, blood diseases, hereditary conditions and immune system disorders. In the future stem cells may be used to fight lung cancer, sickle cell anemia, multiple sclerosis, lupus, AIDS, and a score of other genetic diseases. Preserving your newborn's cord blood stem cells will assure that if a serious disease strikes, you won't need to undergo the costly and sometimes futile search for a matching stem cell donor for your child.



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**The Elie Katz  
Umbilical Cord  
Blood Program**  
at Community Blood Services

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**The  
Gift  
of  
Life**



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## What are Stem Cells?

**S**tem cells are found in bone marrow and umbilical cord blood. Stem cells make the three types of blood cells that we need to survive: red cells to carry oxygen throughout our body, platelets to prevent bleeding, and white cells to form our immune system and guard us against infection.

When stem cells are damaged or destroyed during aggressive treatment for cancer or other diseases, they can be replaced through bone marrow or cord blood transplantation.

By harvesting the cord blood at birth, you can be assured that, if needed, these cord blood stem cells will be immediately available and perfectly matched to your child. Through this autologous or "self" donation, the risk of the body rejecting the transplanted cells is avoided. Also, there is a good possibility that these cells will be a suitable match for your child's siblings.

## How Are Cord Blood Stem Cells Collected and Stored?

**T**he stem cells are collected from the umbilical cord after your child's birth. The collection process takes about five minutes and is safe for both you and your baby.

Your physician, midwife or nurse will draw the cord blood through a needle inserted into the umbilical cord. The blood is collected in a sterile pouch which is then packaged in a specially designed container and delivered to our facility to be processed, stored, and monitored until needed.

The stem cell containers are labeled and catalogued using a state-of-the-art system that assures that only you or your child (when over the age of 18) can access the cells.

## Helping Others in Need: Allogeneic Donations --

**I**f you choose not to save the cord blood, you may donate it to Community Blood Services so its stem cells can be used by a child or adult suffering from cancer or another life-threatening disease.



## The Eli Katz Umbilical Cord Blood Program

**T**he umbilical cord blood program was established in 1996 to meet the needs of a growing population of cancer patients who are candidates for stem cell transplantation.

In 2001, the program was renamed after Dr. Eli Katz, founder of the HLA Registry, the largest voluntary bone marrow registry in the country, and the National HLA Fund, a foundation that helps uninsured patients in need of bone marrow transplants.

Dr. Katz, a pioneer in advocating cord blood collection and preservation, was instrumental in the development and growth of Community Blood Services' umbilical cord blood program.