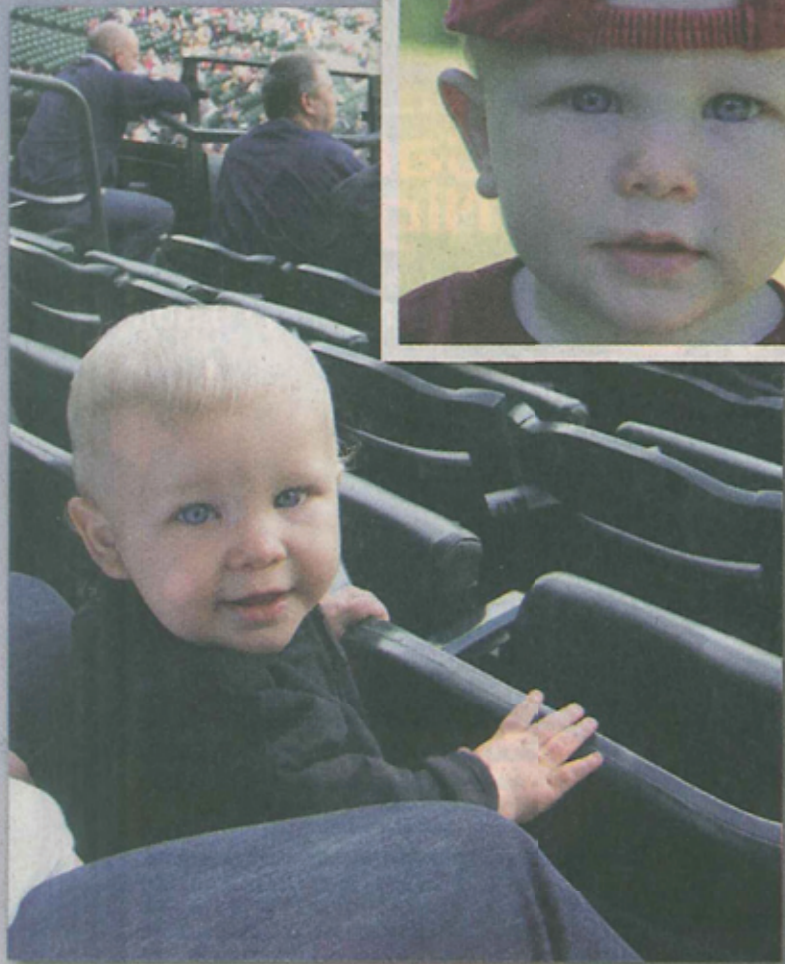


Blood Drive

In celebration of 1-year-old Blake Rogers, whose life was saved at birth thanks to a generous blood donor, Cascade Regional Blood Services is holding a blood drive on Sept. 25. See pg. 7



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESICA ROGERS



GIVE BLOOD, SAVE A LIFE

In honor of a baby's first birthday, Cascade Regional Blood Services holds a blood drive in Fife

By DAVID B. HARDT
Correspondent

Not everyone in life has a chance to save someone's life, but on Sept. 25 at 5 Acre Park in Fife, community members will have the opportunity to do just that. How? By donating blood. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. a blood drive will be held there open to the public.

But does blood really save lives? Jessica Rogers knows firsthand that it does.

On Sept. 29, 2009 Rogers gave birth to a beautiful baby boy named Blake at Saint Francis Hospital in Federal Way. The happiness of baby Blake's mother with his arrival was all too quickly interrupted when the Saint Francis medical staff became alarmed. Baby Blake was not that cherished rose-color of most healthy newborns, and all of his tiny extremities were an ominous shade of purple. Baby Blake was rushed to Tacoma General for crucial testing.

After agonizingly waiting through test after test, Rogers was given the devastating news: Baby Blake had a congenital heart defect known as "transposition of the great arteries." Oxygen was mixing in with the baby boy's blood because two major arteries in his heart (his aorta and pulmonary arteries) were transposed. Left untreated, 50 percent of infants with transposition die in the first month



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESICA ROGERS

Baby Blake Rogers is celebrating his first year of life made possible by donations to Cascade Regional Blood Services.

of life, 90 percent in the first year.

With time ticking away, Rogers put her now four-day-old son in the hands of physicians on the operating table for a six-hour operation in which the skilled surgeons would carefully switch the arteries back and reattach them to the proper valves.

However, before anything was to move forward, baby Blake would face another challenge: He needed a blood transfusion.

Because babies require a special type of blood (O Neg/CMV Neg) that was not readily available at the hospital, the call went out to Cascade Regional Blood Services to save

Blake's life. Within hours, tiny Blake Rogers had received the blood and was set for operation, much to the relief of his worried mother and the doctors who would treat him.

Nearly a year later, Blake is now a happy, completely healthy little boy, enjoying life with no

limitations. He owes that happy life to those who donate blood and to the skilled, steady hands of the surgeons at Tacoma General.

The Rogers and the staff at Cascade Regional Blood Services want people to know that blood donation is a simple act that can save many lives. Truly,

those who give blood are life givers, and what an important and valuable opportunity this is. As she looks at her young son playing happily in the yard, Rogers knows this better than anyone. "Blood saves lives," she said. "Doctors and surgeons wouldn't be able to perform life-saving surgeries without blood transfusions, and it is very important that people know these services are available, but they cannot operate without the community's help."

The Rogers family won't let the gift they received — their baby Blake alive and well — go unheard. "Our family has now made it our mission to spread awareness of the need for blood donation. We are holding this blood drive to celebrate Blake's first year and to give back to the community that saved our son. He is a gift and a miracle, and he wouldn't be here today without the help of Cascade Regional Blood Services."

If you are interested in giving blood and saving lives, visit the Cascade Regional Blood Services bloodmobile at 6335 Radiance Blvd. E. in Fife on Sept. 25. To sign up, call Rogers at (206) 396-0081 or e-mail jrogers@hermanon.com. Before you donate, be sure to eat well, drink plenty of non-caffeinated fluids and bring photo identification. Learn more about giving blood at www.cascade-bloodcenter.org.