

My story

Please give blood.



**American
Red Cross**

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™



Tim

Tim started seeing life differently when he entered the **8th grade**. That's the year he battled an **E-coli poisoning** and learned what it means to need blood.

At 13, Tim had no way of knowing that a **terrible stomach ache** could result in multiple surgeries and **blood transfusions** to help save his life. He and his friend had just returned from a camping trip, and had cooked some burgers on a grill. The next day, he got sick and his friend didn't. Everyone thought it was a "bug" or the flu.

But after several days of horrible abdominal cramps, Tim was admitted to the hospital and placed in **intensive care**. His **kidneys shut down** and his blood counts were low. He needed transfusions to stave off dialysis and further damage to his system.

Tim was in the hospital for six weeks. His experience strengthened his resolve to be the **first in line at his high school blood drive** when he turned 17. He's been a donor now for more than a decade, and tells his story to everyone in hopes they'll become blood donors, too.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, be in general good health, and present a donor card or positive ID upon donation. ©2009 The American National Red Cross 05/09AP485

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