

My story

Please give blood.



**Barry and his family:
Eric, Lori, Barry and Lindsey**



**American
Red Cross**

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

Barry thought of his wife. Then he thought of his kids. Then he thought of the blood donors who were helping to save his life.

Barry had entered the hospital two days earlier for **routine surgery**. No one expected complications, or that he would need nearly **40 emergency transfusions of blood**.

When he was moved to **intensive care**, Barry realized he might die. The thought of death, he says, didn't bother him as much as the idea of leaving his family behind. But looking around, he knew he still had a chance. He was **receiving blood**. And it was there for him because because others had taken the time to give.

That experience, Barry says, made him philosophical. He wonders why others have died from lesser medical conditions, and why he didn't. He thinks of people who survived disasters and of others who didn't. Perhaps, he says, he was spared so he can **donate blood** and **persuade others to give**. As he puts it, you never know if your donation might help someone who will go on to do great things in life—like save the planet.

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 06/09AP637

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