

# Our story

## Please give blood.



**American  
Red Cross**

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



**Karley and Everett**

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**Karley** knew her son would be receiving blood even before he was born.

At her 20-week ultrasound, doctors told her and her husband **Nate** that **Everett** would be born with **hypoplastic left-heart syndrome**. He would need a series of operations to treat the rare heart defect, and would need blood during and after surgery. The first operation would be within a week of his birth, the next two before he turned 2.

Now, three years later, **Everett is thriving**. He's all boy and loves trucks, cars and trains. He swims, does gymnastics and downhill skis.

For his parents, the results couldn't be more optimistic. Doctors say no additional surgeries are on the horizon, and his medications consist of a single baby aspirin a day. Karley started donating blood again, and gives as often as she can. It's a way, she says, she can **make a difference to kids** like Everett who have a chance at life because others chose to give.

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 04/09AP397

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